AIRBOATING

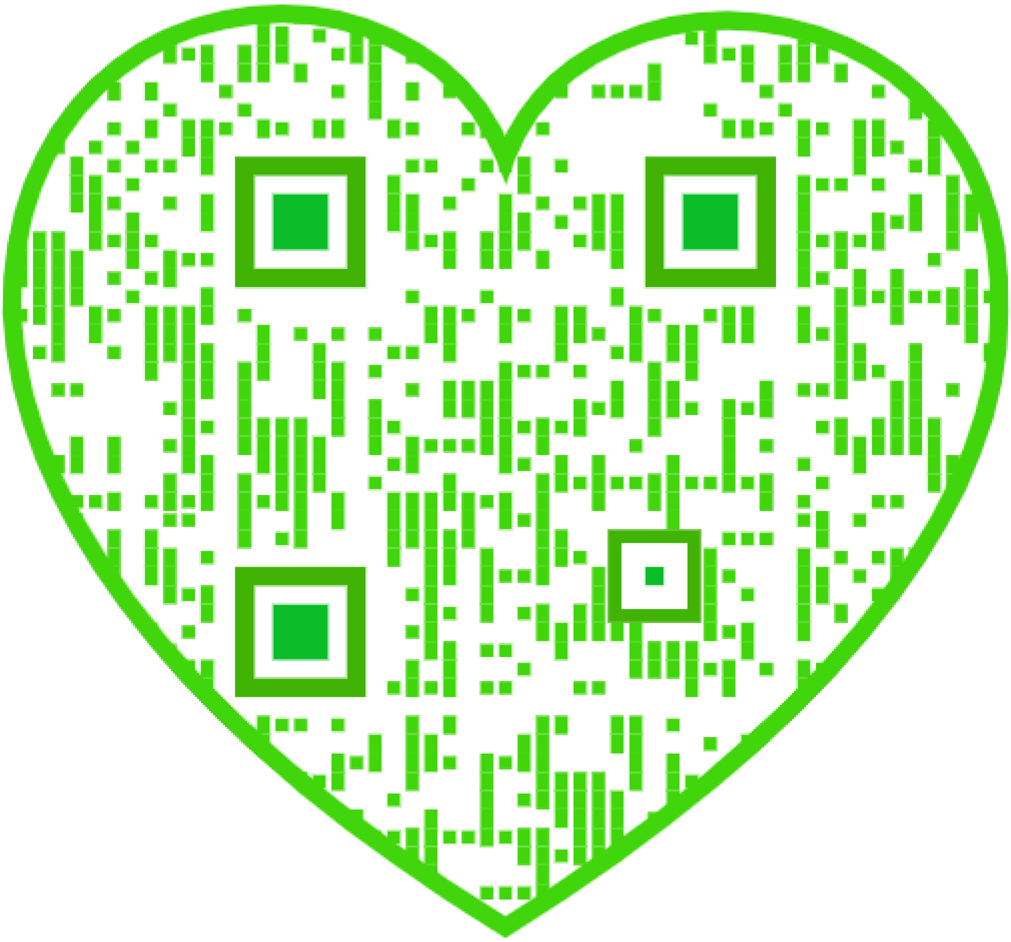
MARCH / APRIL 2025

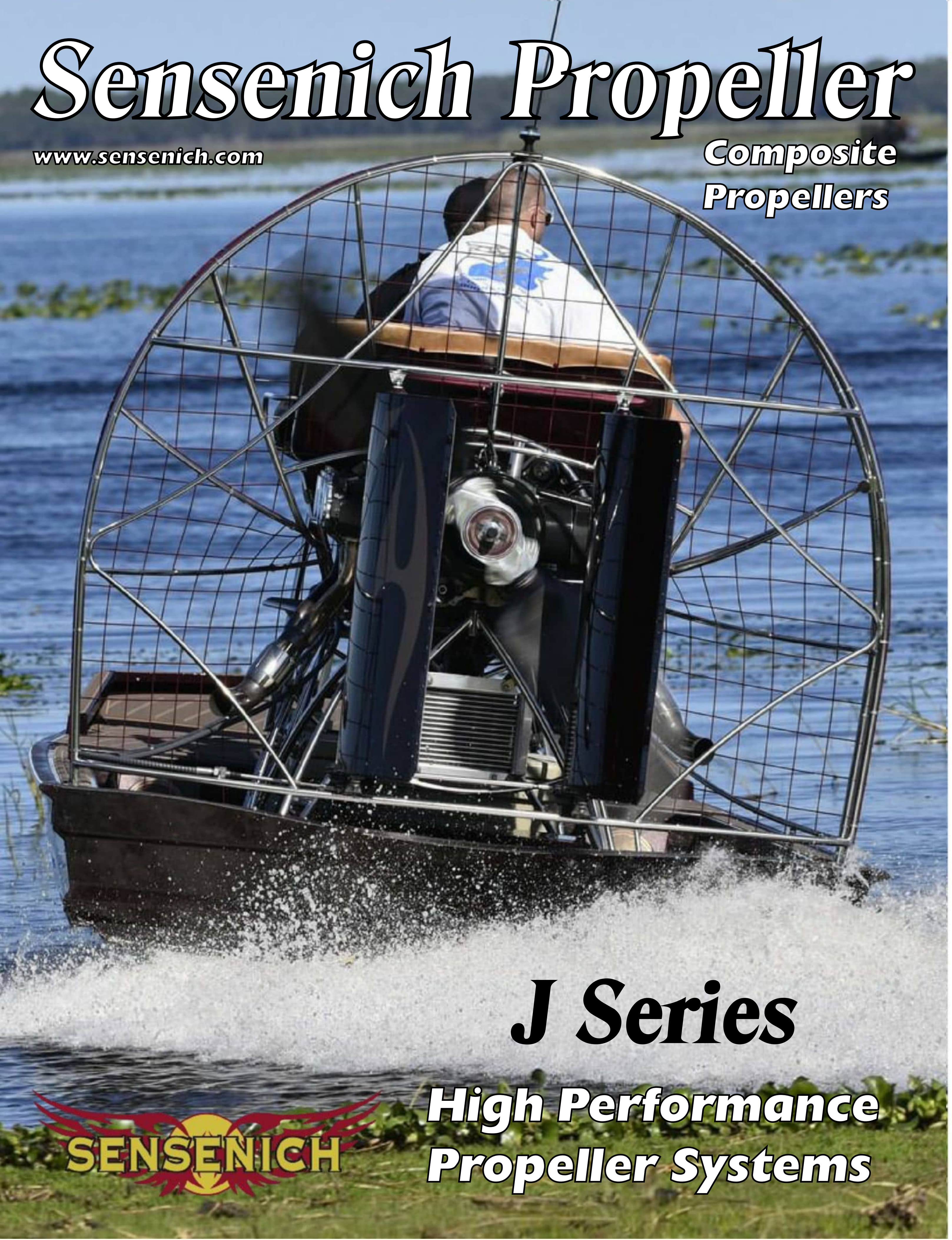
AIRBOAT EVENTS

ICE FISHING ON MISSISSIPPI RIVER

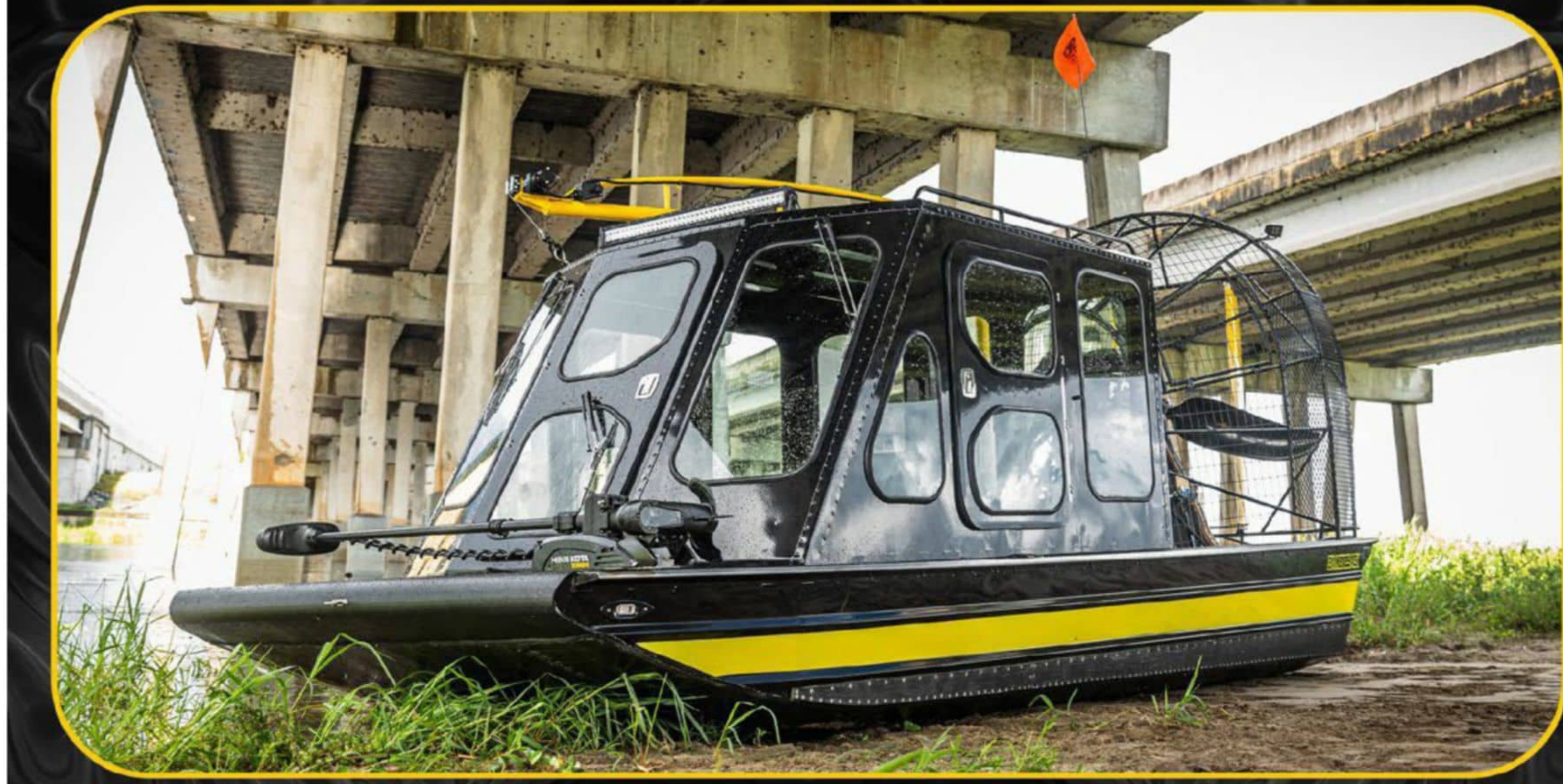
IGUANA HUNTING

U.S. $5.75




Sensenich Propeller
www.sensenich.com
Composite
Propellers
J Series
SENSENICH
High Performance
Propeller Systems

DIAMONDBACK
AIRBOATS



Diamondback Airboats are built for performance, even in the harshest conditions. Our enclosed-cabin cold-weather airboats keep you protected from the elements, allowing you to focus on the task at hand. Whether you're navigating icy waters or working in remote environments, you'll experience unmatched reliability, comfort, and capability.

MADE
IN THE
USA

DIAMONDBACKAIRBOATS.COM

B&S TRAILER MANUFACTURING

AIRBOAT TRAILERS
AND MORE

Now Offering Water Jet Cutting - Any Type of Fabrication

Trade-Ins Welcome • Repairs on All Trailers
We Custom Build Any Type of Aluminum Trailer!
352-591-2161 • Reddick, FL
www.bstrailer.com

GUIDE TO FLORIDA
BEST OF
FLORIDA
2024
#LoveFlorida
GUIDEtoFLORIDA.COM
GTO
Performance
AIRBOATS

PERFORMANCE
DRIVEN

EXPERT SUPERIOR QUALITY
SALES | SERVICE | PARTS
352-401-9070
4600 WEST HWY 326, OCALA, FL 34482
SALES@GTOAIRBOATS.COM SERVICE@GTOAIRBOATS.COM
GTOAIRBOATS.COM

AIRBOATING Magazine

Publisher - Airboating Magazine LLC

Chief Editor, Laurie Hauke
Assistant Editor, John Tischner
Marketing, Guy Jensen

Contributing Writers

Brae Anderson
Lana Richelle Davis
Laurie Hauke
John Mason
Emily Rollins
Tonia Suarez
Nicole Anderson
Capt. Jarrad Fluekiger
David "Straycat" Laviolette
Joe Rabena
Larry Rowe
Chad Weyker

Photography & Illustrations

Brae Anderson
Capt. Jarrad Fluekiger
Luke Laukatisis
John Mason
Ocean Aid 360
Jeneane Rhuda
Larry Rowe
Colby Stipes
Tonia Suarez
Chad Weyker
Lana Richelle Davis
David Laviolette
Capt. Dave Market
Velva Mellette
Joe Rabena
John Rollins
Sandra Effertz Photography
JR Stipes, Nauti Boys Mat
Art Usher

Cover photo by Chris Awtrey
IRCAA Rocket Launch with club members Dusty and Marty

Address: Airboating Magazine LLC
917 County Road 102, Abbeville AL 36310
PH: 352-255-4776

Email: info@airboatingmagazine.com
Website: www.airboatingmagazine.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/AirboatingMag/

March / April 2025

FEATURES

8 Ice Fishing on the Mississippi River
12 News Bits
14 Industry News
15 New Products from Ox Drive
16 Discovering Florida's Wild Heart a Journey with Compass Airboat Safaris
20 Cedar Key Waterway Cleanup
27 Removing Invasive Species in Florida Iguana Hunting

EVENTS

24 TNT - Run What You Brung
29 BCAHCC Frog Gigging Tournament
30 USAA New Year's Day Cookout
31 IRCAA Rocket Launch
32 FSCA 27th Annual Outdoor Youth Day
34 SCAC Chili Cook off
37 LOAA January Successful Youth Hunts
43 Upcoming Events

Copyright ©2025. All rights reserved. *Airboating Magazine LLC*
Material printed in this publication may not be reproduced in any form without written permission from Airboating Magazine LLC.

Takes the CRAP OUT of Your Fuel
Part# RPM300 Shown
#RPM300
FST PERFORMANCE
RF500
Off-shore and off-road racing proven: **Work airboats*, high performance and pleasure airboats are changing to FST Performance® "Flo Max™" fuel filter systems.**

- **Proven in airboats in service from Alaska to Florida.**
- **Fuel pump manufacturers & engine builders are recommending FST Performance® fuel filter systems to improve fuel flow to stop High HP "lean-out" under heavy/full throttle.**
- **FST filters provide complete water separation-stripping (not found in so-called performance stainless steel mesh filters).**

Fuel Flow Facts: **Efficiency & high flow are due to our large FloMax™ media surface area: *over triple our competitors.***

All filters work with gasoline, ethanol, methanol and race fuels. Go with the "flow" = Step up to FST Performance Fuel Filtration.

The most efficient "performance" fuel filter available at 3 or 4 micron efficiency and 300 GPH flow.

FST PERFORMANCE® FUEL FILTRATION

Visit our website for more info:
www.fstperformance.com
Call Today to Talk Tech
407/323-0122

** Hunting/Fishing Guide boats / industrial harbor cleanup boats*

Century DRIVE SYSTEMS
EXCALIBUR
MADE IN USA BY
CENTURY DRIVE SYSTEMS
CENTURY DRIVE SYSTEMS OFFERS A VARIETY OF GEARED AND BELTED DRIVE UNITS TO MEET YOUR AIRBOATING NEEDS!

(814) 677-7100 - 866-679-4200

EXcalibur Gear Drive

- **Reduction ratios: 2.04, 2.33, 2.50, 2.68, 2.89**
- **Engineered for performance and durability**
- **Hardened, precision ground, polished gears**
- **Highest quality bearings**
- **Built in oil passages direct oil where it is needed**

- **CH-2 Drive unit - 4" wide belt drive system rated at 500HP**
- **CH-3 Drive unit - 5" wide belt drive system rated at 600HP**
- **CH-3 Longbelt drive, 41.8" between centers**
- **CH-3 Counter rotators**
- **CH-4 Drive units, 2.52 : 1 & 2.67 : 1 ratios 14MM tooth profile and 5" wide Falcon Belt**
- **Briggs and Kohler Mini Drive units, 1.65 : 1 & 2 : 1 ratios 50MM wide drive belt**
- **CH-4 Counter Rotators rated at 700HP**
- **Ecotec Drive unit, a 2 : 1 ratio, a 75MM wide drive belt**

Email: info@CenturyDrives.com - centurydrivesystemsinc.com
687 Bucktail Road, Franklin, PA 16323

Ice Fishing the Mississippi River

Article and photos by Captain Jarrad Fluekiger

The airboat's 650 h.p. Marine Power engine roared to life, its fan blades cutting through the frosty morning air as I, Captain Jarrad Fluekiger, secured the fishing gear. The Mississippi River stretched out before me, its mighty flow a mix of open water and frozen patches. It is a maze of opportunity for the adventurous angler.

Unlike most fishermen confined to the popular, accessible spots, I have the ultimate tool for exploring the river's hidden treasures: an airboat from Patriot Airboats out of Vidor, Texas. The airboat skimmed effortlessly over the open water, cutting a line through the icy mist. The advantage was clear — while others trudged across limited stretches of ice, I had access to isolated backwaters, tucked away behind islands and in shallow, low-flow areas where fish congregated in the winter.

With the setting sun peeking over the horizon, I steered the airboat toward a narrow inlet shrouded by frosty cattails. The the Patriot Airboat hull transitioned seamlessly from water to ice; gliding smoothly onto the frozen surface. I slowed the engine to a gentle hum and stepped out to drill the first ice fishing hole. These small, low-flow areas are gold mines. The limited water movement beneath the ice meant fish could gather here without expending too much energy, a perfect spot for Jarrad to drop his lines.

The airboat has the ability to navigate areas no one else could reach. Thin ice or patches of open water that deterred others are no obstacle allowing the airboat to go deep into secluded backwater, where the ice was thick and the fish plentiful.

Rigging the tip-down rod with a small hook and tipped with a minnow, I sent it down into one foot of water. The first bite came quickly — a jumbo perch, its scales like a zebra shimmered like gold coins in the morning light. Jarrad released a satisfied chuckle. This was why I love ice fishing the Mississippi with the airboat. Every trip feels like a private expedition into untouched waters. The day unfolded with one success after another. With each spot the airboat carried us to we, hauled in a mix of perch, bluegill, and the occasional walleye.

The beauty of the airboat was its ability to navigate areas no one else could reach — not even snowmobiles or ATVs. Thin ice or patches of open water that deterred others were no obstacle for Jarrad. By mid-afternoon, the airboat had taken us deep into a secluded backwater, where the ice was thick and the fish plentiful.

We took a moment to admire the surroundings — the stillness of the snow-draped trees, the soft gurgle of the river beneath the ice,

Continued on page 10

TORRY ISLAND AIRBOAT SHOW
& BBQ SHOWDOWN

MARCH 22, 2025
TORRY ISLAND
BELLE GLADE, FL

AWARDS IN EACH DIVISION
4 & 6 CYLINDER • HUNT BOAT
AUTOMOTIVE • BEATER BOAT

LIVE MUSIC! featuring
Joe Nichols
SCOOT TEASLEY
ONE LOVE RISING

Cornhole Tournament
AG Olympics
Beer Truck
Variety of Food
Vendors
AND SO MUCH MORE!

Sanctioned
KCBS KANSAS CITY BARBEQUE SOCIETY
BBQ SHOWDOWN
OVER $20,000 IN PRIZES

Admission
$10
PROCEEDS BENEFIT LOCAL GLADES CHARITIES

WWW.TIBBQSHOWDOWN.COM

Check us out online

Brought to you by
THE CHAMBER
H.E.HILL FOUNDATION, INC.

and the feeling of complete solitude. As the sun began its descent, painting the sky in hues of orange and purple, I packed up my gear. The bucket brimmed with a bounty of fish, a testament to the rewards of exploring the river's hidden pockets.

The Patriot Airboat roared to life once more, carrying us back over the frozen landscape and open water with ease. For me, the airboat is not just a tool — it is a gateway to adventure. It allows me to experience the Mississippi River in a way few others can, turning a simple ice fishing trip into an unforgettable journey. Heading home, the satisfaction of the day lingered, already sparking dreams of the next airboat adventure on the mighty Mississippi.

About the Author:

Captain Jarrad Fluekiger, a third generation guide, is one of the most well-known guides along the Mississippi River and Lake Pepin (a lake on the Mississippi River on the border of Minnesota and Wisconsin). Along with his guiding, he is a professional walleye fisherman that has fished at many professional levels, such as the HEAD2HEAD (H2H), FLW, Masters Walleye Circuit, and AIM.

His biggest accomplishment is finishing 1st in the AIM Saginaw Bay, Michigan walleye tournament, 4th in the FLW Championship in Moline, Illinois. He has been ranked as high as 1st in the nation. He was also selected as one of the TOP 32 to fish the H2H HEAD2HEAD fishing tour all over the country.

Jarrad is also a realtor for Coulee Land Company. If you are looking for land in Buffalo County, Wisconsin give Jarrad a call.

MARINEPOWER
THE FORCE BEHIND THE FUN.™
6.2L LT4 AIRBOAT ENGINE

Introducing the Marine Power LT4 AirPac.
A 620 HP Direct Injected Supercharged engine designed and calibrated specifically for airboat applications.

- EPA Certified
- Forged Pistons and Crankshaft
- Hydraulic Roller Camshaft
- 1.7L Eaton R1740 TVS Supercharger
- Requires 93 Octane Fuel
- Includes Limited 3 Year Warranty

MODEL: A62LT4

BECOME A DEALER TODAY
MARINEENGINEDEPOT.COM

CALL FOR PRICING
(985)-386-2081

2025 PATRIOT AIRBOAT - 25 X 10 ALASKA WORKBOAT

- Marine Power LT4 Engine
- Custom Heated Cabin
- ButtRaxx Custom Seats
- Sensenich 4-Blade Prop
- Century Drive Reduction
- AFCO Custom Radiator
- PlashLights Lighting
- Custom Grass Rake
- 100 Gallon Refueling Tank
- Borla Custom Muffler
- Garmin 9" GPS
- UHMV Poly on Bottom and Sides
- 5 Towing Cleats
- Seating for 10
- Coastline Trailer

PATRIOT AIRBOAT CORP. - 810 EDGEWOOD ST., VIDOR, TEXAS 77662
409-422-0006 - PATRIOTAIRBOATS.COM

Florida Sportsmen's Conservation Association and Lake Okeechobee Association of Airboaters

Article and photos by Joe Rabena

We are here today with the FSCA and LOAA worked on an airboat ramp located on the Istokpoga Canal, an important access point to the Kissimmee River in Central Florida.

The existing slide was never an ideal fit, and over time the wooden structure has deteriorated. Now, the South Florida Water Management District is upgrading it with synthetic plastic for greater durability. Our team is removing the old wooden components while preserving the concrete pilings.

Collaborative projects like this help the district save thousands of taxpayer dollars. We take pride in contributing to these efforts, ensuring public access areas remain safe and functional. It is rewarding to be part of a project that benefits both conservation efforts and the outdoor community, making our waterways more enjoyable for everyone.

Osceola Airboat Association and Kissimmee Swamp Tours in Silver Spurs Parade

Osceola Airboat Association and Kissimmee Swamp Tours (located at Joe Overstreet Road in Kenansville), were a part of the 81st Annual Silver Spurs Parade in downtown St. Cloud promoting airboating and conservation.

The Silver Spurs Rodeo Parade has a rich history in Osceola County (Florida). Founded by the Silver Spurs Riding Club, it was originally in downtown Kissimmee. The parade now rides through the streets of downtown St. Cloud.

The parade has varied processions of equestrian groups, marching bands, vintage cars, and local organizations that help to celebrate Osceola County's western heritage and community spirit.

Follow OAA on Facebook or information on future events.

STRIVING TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT & OUR WATER WAYS
VENDORS • RAFFLES
FAMILY FUN • BARBECUE
FL 2125 TL

Indian River Airboat Association

Article and photos by Brae Anderson

Thank you to all the club members who came out on February 5 to tear it out and on February 8, 2025, to rebuild the two platforms, picnic table and bench at Banjo camp in the East Marsh (by Fellsmere, Florida) .

We really appreciate all of your help it was another great accomplishment. Thank you to St. John's Water Management District for donating the wood.

IRCAA had a busy start to the airboating season with a rocket launch on February 15, including a bonfire and dinner. Then, they held their annual Speck Fishing Tournament on March 1.

FASCO Epoxies

9XN 2000 SUPER SLICK®

The original airboat coating! Fasco Super Slick® was created in 1961 and uses the same tried and true formula to create the slickest boat bottoms from Alaska to the Everglades.

Fasco Super Slick® features friction reducing additives that help airboats run over dry ground and rough surfaces, while remaining attached without damaging the coating. This long-lasting coating can be rolled, brushed, or poured on and spread.

When properly applied, Fasco Super Slick® will adhere to metal, fiberglass, and almost all surfaces.

Check Out Our OTHER PRODUCTS

Fasco Epoxies® also offers a wide range of products including:

Epoxy Glues: liquids and pastes for patching jobs, marble, wood, metals plastics, etc.

Epoxy Resins: clear and ultra-clear resins for casting, tabletops, floors, etc.

We also offer Epoxy Pigments, fillers/additives, and much more!

Contact Us: 2550 N US Hwy 1, Fort Pierce, FL 34946
www.fascoepoxies.com
(305) 821 9441

INDUSTRY NEWS

Airboating Magazine is For Sale Laurie Wants to Retire

Since our first issue in May 2007, it has been a fantastic experience being publisher of *Airboating Magazine.* We have been able to share stories about fun times and interesting people. We have traveled to many places to experience airboating everywhere for everyone. We are proud to help support and promote many wonderful businesses that are a part of our airboating community.

We know *Airboating Magazine* is a unique and needed publication in this industry. However, it is time to pass the baton to someone else who has a passion for airboating. Someone who would like to take the helm to keep the magazine going and continue to promote airboating.

If you would like to own your own business promoting airboating, reach out to me at 352-255-4776 or via email at info@airboatingmagazine.com.

Outlaw Airboats Sweepstakes

OUTLAW
AIRBOATS

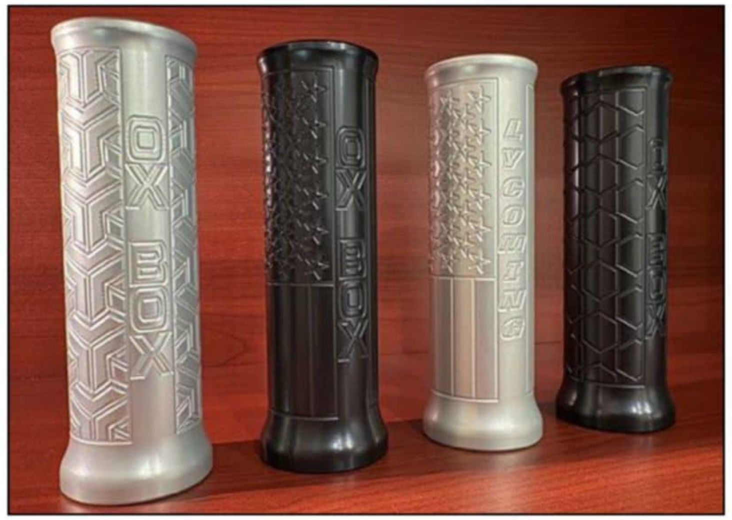
Outlaw Airboats has a sweepstakes going on with a 1 in 300 chance to win with a $250 ticket, for this beautiful green 13' 6" Poacher Outlaw hull with 500 CO power plant.

For information and tickets contact Outlaw Airboats at 772-300-4020.

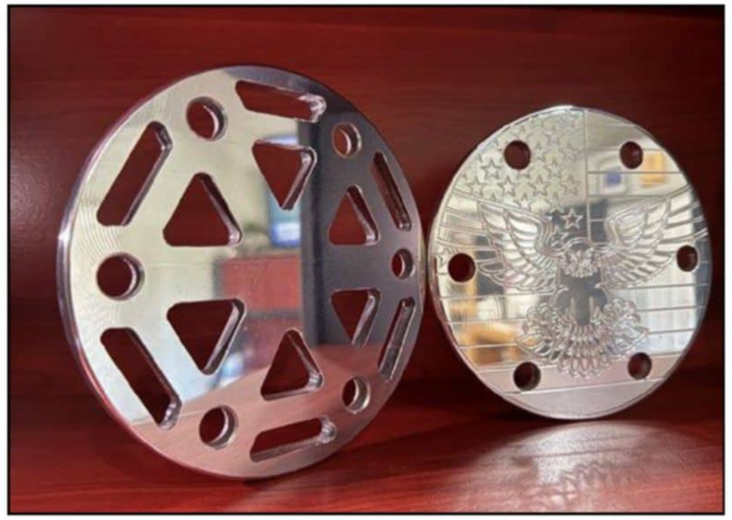
PM
PRESTIGE MOTORSPORTS
MAX-TORQUE FOR AIR BOATS!
Engineered. Tested. Proven.
Big Block - Up to 665ci
Small Block - Up to 427ci
Chevy LS - Up to 441ci
5110 Davidson Hwy. Concord, NC. 28027 | 704.782.7170 | prestigemoto.com

NEW PRODUCTS

Ox Drive
Custom Billet Steering Grips and Prop Plates



Ox Drive Reductions' custom billet steering grips. Several designs and colors in stock now and more to come soon. Available in 7/8" and 1" sizes.



Ox Drive Reductions' custom billet prop plates. Many designs are available.

For ordering and more information call 863-581-9710.

Let an "OX DRIVE" Your Prop!
"The 2nd Generation Ox Drive"

- Ratios available for immediate delivery: 2.09, 2.38, 2.55, 2.68, 2.88
- Finish options: standard high shine mill, anodized, and mirror polished
- Optional "Clutch and Line Lock System" available for more control while bowfishing, gigging, spraying, or simply easier docking.

FEATURES INCLUDE:

- 6061 *domestic* aluminum billet housings
- Class 14 ground and polished helical gears...offering you a smooth and quiet box without sacrificing any power
- 48 ounce oil capacity
- Multiple mounting options for easy replacement of major brand boxes
- *Standard* two (2) year warranty with extended available

All Ox Drives are hand fitted to give you the highest quality box available today.

For more information, call 863-581-9710 Like us on Facebook

Discovering Florida's Wild Heart
A Journey with Compass Airboat Safaris

Article By Nicole Anderson **Photos from Art Usher, Compass Airboat Safaris**

Florida's natural wonders are legendary — from its sprawling wetlands and wildlife-rich estuaries to the mysterious allure of the Everglades. Nestled in the heart of this ecological marvel is Compass Airboat Safaris, a premier adventure outfitter offering an unforgettable way to experience the Sunshine State's wild side.

Art Usher, owner and operator of Compass Airboat Safaris explained, for him, "It's not just about skimming across the water at thrilling speeds; it's about connecting with Florida's unique ecosystems in a way that's as exhilarating as it is educational."

Founded by lifelong Floridian and certified naturalist, Captain Art Usher, the company blends adrenaline-pumping adventure with a deep appreciation for the delicate balance of the wetlands. "You know, it's about getting into people's heads and providing an opportunity for them to see something new and different," Usher said in a recent interview.

Usher centered his vision around building a custom airboat small enough to personalize customers' experiences in nature, on a lake or in the swamp. To bring his dream to life, Usher chose GTO Performance Airboats in Ocala, Florida.

Usher is not new to the water or airboating. He centered his vision around building a custom airboat small enough to personalize customers' experiences in nature, on a lake or in the swamp. To bring his dream to life, Usher chose GTO Performance Airboats in Ocala, Florida. Working with sales manager Keith Reese and shop foreman Rick Miller, the process was seamless. "They took my ideas, improved upon them at times, and made my boat a reality," says Usher.

His 20'x8', six-passenger GTO Sportsman Edition hull is powered by a Chevy 7.4-liter EFI Levitator motor with a Century Excalibur gear drive box, four Sensenich Whisper Tip props, and a polymer-protected hull that pushes it, fully loaded, through the toughest terrain. Additional features include LED lighting throughout, dual 8' power poles, a lower deck platform for mounting a cooler, rod holders, a Bimini top, custom interior hull lighting, and an in-console-mounted Garmin Active Captain chart plotter./

The features of this GTO airboat do not stop there, and with the attention to detail, all of Usher's customers will be sitting in style on top of the custom gator-edged seat covers designed and installed by Lynn's Stitch Shop in Inverness, Florida. Usher, who wanted an airboat that was unique from all the others on the water, had Tonia Suarez, a talented graphic designer at Painterchic Vinyl, create a one-of-a-kind vinyl wrap for the airboat, showcasing stunning swamp critters and foliage. It is not just the way the boat looks though, it is far more than that for Usher. It is about the people he meets and the customer service he provides.

Each Compass Airboat Safari is tailored to provide a personalized experience. Whether you're a first-time visitor or a seasoned explorer, the company offers two-to-four-hour customized tours. Depending on customer preferences, Usher explained "tours may

FOREE INSURANCE
MARINE DIVISION
BOAT INSURANCE
Airboats to Yachts
281.333.2000

STINGER DRIVES
We offer a wide range of Gear Drive Ratios:
1.54, 1.73, 2.09, 2.38, 2.55, 2.68, 2.88
Visit our NEW Website for a Stinger Dealer Near You!
STINGERDRIVES.COM
727-483-3838
Sharon Kaye, Owner/Operator
SWINGING PROPS THE RIGHT WAY SINCE '95
6561 44th St., North Unit 3004
Pinellas Park, Florida 33781

even include a stop for lunch at the historic Yearling Restaurant, renowned for its delicious food and exceptional service, or perhaps a custom dining experience with his own BBQ mounted on the boat."Compass Airboat Safaris can access areas larger boats cannot, ensuring a unique and intimate experience in Florida's natural beauty.

A trip with Compass Airboat Safaris is a front-row ticket to Florida's biodiversity. From Orange Lake—which holds the second-largest population of alligators in the state—to its surrounding ecosystems, guests can observe deer, wild hogs, otters, swamp cattle, bald eagles, ospreys, and the striking Roseate Spoonbills. The lake is also home to Giant Cypress trees, massive Century and Grandfather Oaks, and an array of water lilies and flowering foliage.

Compass Airboat Safaris stands out not only for its top-notch tours but also for its dedication to preserving Florida's wetlands. The company actively supports local conservation efforts, including partnerships with the Florida Wildlife Federation and educational programs for schools. "Education is a cornerstone of what we do," explains Captain Usher. "The more people understand these ecosystems, the more they'll want to protect them."

Compass Airboat Safaris operates year-round, with tours departing from the Heagy-Burry boat ramp on Orange Lake in Marion County. Guests are advised to book in advance, especially during peak tourist seasons. The company provides everything needed for the tour, from life jackets to ponchos for unexpected rain showers. All you need to bring is a sense of adventure — and perhaps a camera to capture the stunning landscapes and wildlife.

Exploring Florida's wetlands with Compass Airboat Safaris is more than a thrill ride; it is an immersion into a world that is as fragile as it is breathtaking. For adventurers, nature lovers, and families alike, it is an experience that combines heart-racing excitement with moments of serene beauty — a perfect balance that leaves a lasting impression.

So, whether you are visiting Florida for the first time or looking to rediscover its wild heart, Compass Airboat Safaris offers a gateway to memories you will treasure forever. Set your compass to adventure and prepare for an unforgettable journey through one of America's most iconic landscapes.

For more information contact: CompassAirboatSafaris.com.

Usher's main location is "Old Florida RV Resort" and he will also be picking people up at "The RV Resort at Orange Lake," the future home of the new "Margaritaville Resort & Family Entertainment Center at Orange Lake," once their boat ramp is completed sometime during the summer of 2025.

COMPASS AIRBOAT SAFARIS
727-514-3537

Bass Pro Shops
2025
U.S. OPEN
BOWFISHING
CHAMPIONSHIP
TRACKER
BOATS & ATVs
★ ANNOUNCING NEW DATE ★
2025 U.S. OPEN BOWFISHING CHAMPIONSHIP
BASS PRO SHOPS PYRAMID | MEMPHIS, TN
★ MAY 17-18, 2025 ★
CONGRATULATIONS
★ 2024 CHAMPIONS ★
TEAM NATURAL DISASTERS | 583 POUNDS

Panther
Gear to Gear Counter Rotator
MANY ADVANTAGES OVER CONVENTIONAL AIRBOAT PROPELLER REDUCTION UNITS
CALL 321-632-1722 OR 1-800-AIRBOAT
FOR INFORMATION OR TO ORDER YOURS TODAY!

- RATED FOR 1200HP+
- COMPLETE TORQUE CANCELLATION (ABSOLUTELY NO TORQUE ROLL!)
- GAIN UP TO 30% MORE THRUST
- UP TO 25% LESS FUEL CONSUMPTION
- UP TO 30% LESS PROPELLER SOUND
- FULL CONTACT GEARS FOR STRONG QUIET OPERATION OF THE UNIT
- AGGRESSIVE AND SNAPPY PERFORMANCE
- BOTH PROPELLER SHAFTS HAVE THE SAME REDUCTION RATIO
- AVAILABLE IN 2.37:1 AND 2.68:1 REDUCTION RATIOS

PANTHER AIRBOAT CORP. - 300 N. Wilson Ave., Cocoa, FL 32922 - airboats.com

Cedar Key Waterway Cleanup

Article by Tonia Suarez

Photos by Luke Laukaitis, Ocean Aid 360, Capt. Dave Markett and Tonia Suarez

If you've never had the chance to check out some of the small communities along our Gulf Coast I highly recommend it. Cedar Key is a little town that's off the beaten path, but one of the neatest little towns there is. Prior to this past hurricane season, you could take a ride out to the coast and hang out at some of the local spots and eat right on the water or enjoy a beautiful sunset watching the dolphins frolic in the water right in front of your table on one of the many outdoor decks along the boardwalk area.

Enter hurricanes Debby and Helene. The beautiful town of Cedar Key was heavily damaged this past fall when back-to-back hurricanes, Debby and Helene, hit the area within weeks of one another. Not only did this take its toll on the local tourism industry, which is one of the main sources of income this little town has, it also wreaked havoc on another industry that affects the seafood market.

It's hard to believe that such a small town could be a contender for anything beyond its beautiful sunsets, however Cedar Key is arguably one of the largest clam producers in the nation and that took a terrible hit as well when the storms came through the area.

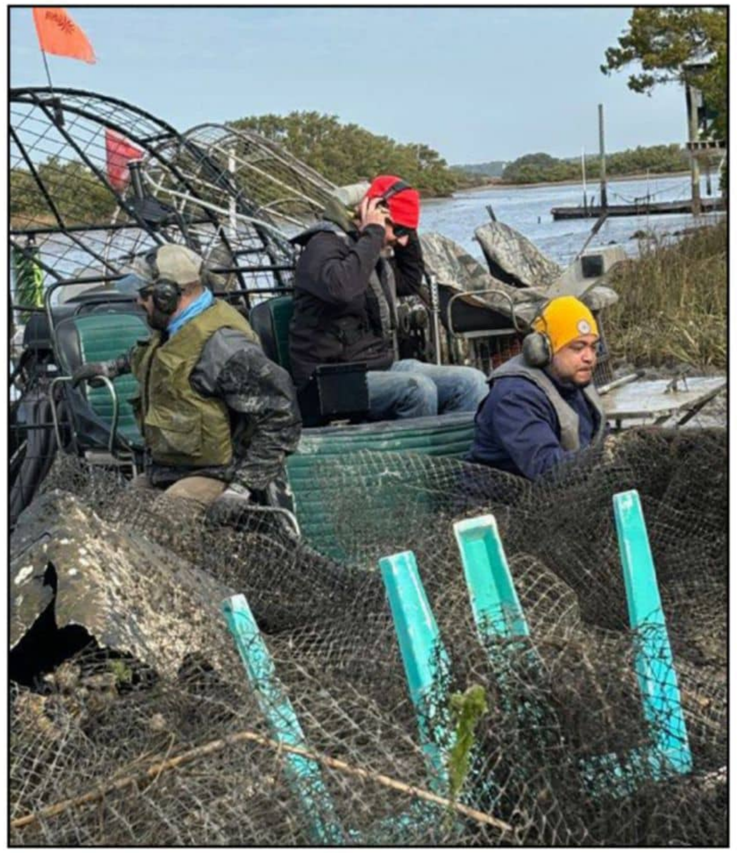
HAMANT 321-259-6998

Rudders/Tanks/Panels • Headers/Mufflers
Steering Cables • Boating Accessories

Dealer for: Sensenich • WhirlWind
Levitator • Ox Drive Reductions
Stinger • Century Belt Drives

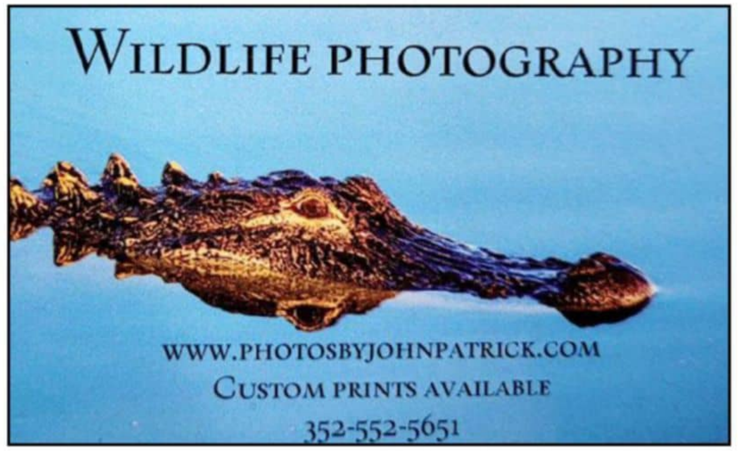
Hamant Airboats

1705 Southland Ave., Melbourne, FL 32901
airboatsbyhamant@yahoo.com
Online store - *hamantboats.com*

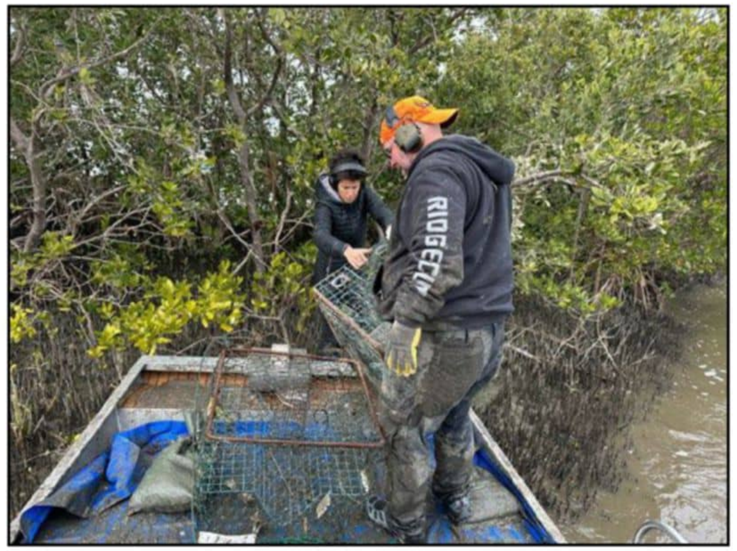


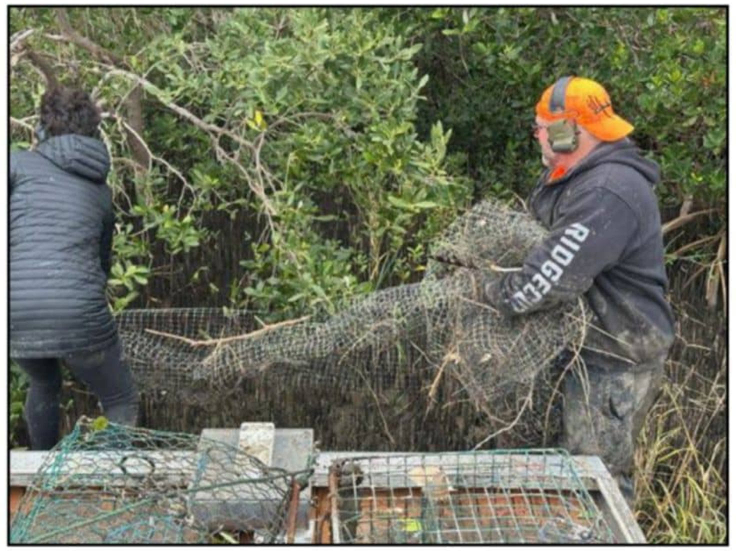
I got to help with a Ghost Trap Cleanup in Tampa Bay a few years ago, I really enjoyed getting to know Captain Neill Holland (founder of Ocean Aid 360) and his girlfriend Danielle. They are super great people. Ocean Aid 360 believes that protecting Florida's coastal habitat, the environment and protecting marine resource-reliant livelihoods go hand in hand. They contacted me in regards to helping them put this cleanup together.

I, along with several other airboaters and quite a few amazing volunteers, were to scour the area and collect up as many sections of the clam cover netting as we could find. It's my understanding that these nets are used to help keep the predators away from the clam fields as the clams are grown out in the mud flats of the Gulf of America. So, picking them up out of areas that they don't belong in is critical to the islands around Cedar Key.


WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

WWW.PHOTOSBYJOHNPATRICK.COM
CUSTOM PRINTS AVAILABLE
352-552-5651

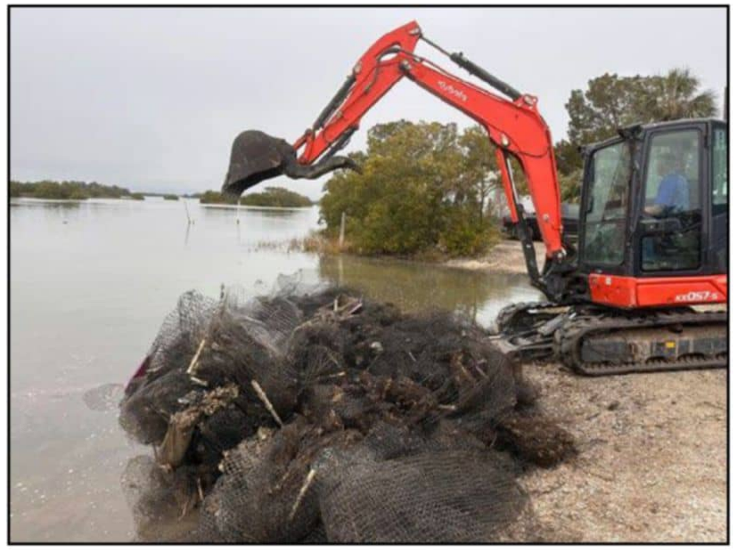




Early January 18, 2025, we all met in Cedar Key and set off on our mission of the day. We had to work hard and fast as we were trying to beat impending weather that was supposed to be coming in that afternoon which would have put all of us in a potentially dangerous situation on the open water. Open water in an airboat on the Gulf is nothing to play with when there is a storm brewing.

Trying to find the nets was a bit challenging at first, because they blend in with the surroundings pretty easy as they're black. However, once you knew how to spot them, it was game on! The main reason why it's so important that we remove the cover netting is because during the storms, it was blown up into the mangroves which are such an important part to the fragile ecosystem around the coastline. As we know, airboats are a perfect vessel for this type of operation, and this was our time to shine. As we went in at low tide, we had the opportunity and took out many more of these nets than you could ever get to with any other type of motorized vessel and leave no damage to the areas in which we had to run. Cedar Key is also absolutely slam packed fully of oyster bars, which also makes maneuvering very challenging.

While the cover netting was the main focus of this cleanup, there is an unmeasurable amount of other hurricane related debris in the water that was now turned into water hazards for anyone who chooses to traverse the area. We picked up some of the plastic debris



SRC SAMPSON RACING COMMUNICATIONS

Finally... Affordable Airboat Wireless Headsets!

Wireless-
Bluetooth-
Hands Free-
True Stereo-
True Noise Canceling-
True 26bB Hearing Protection-

2 PLACE ONLY $878

Also Offering 2 Place Wired Sytems starting @ $499, 2-way Marine VHF Radios, DSP Intercoms, with Same-Day Shipping

www.SampsonRacing.com - 866 396 7231

we found in the same areas that we were picking up the netting.

This project was definitely not for someone who thought they were going to stay clean. This was a very muddy endeavor, but such a satisfying one, as at the end of the day we had two trailers that were filled to the brim with the netting and other debris.

We airboaters tend to get bad press unless there is a disaster, and someone needs to be rescued. This was an opportunity to show what an amazing vessel we have that can help out in many different ways that others don't always think about until we show them.

As an airboater who also works in the industry, I would personally like to throw out a challenge to all other airboaters to get involved with local cleanups or do what I did and get out of your comfort zone and go do a cleanup in an area you've never explored before. I promise, you won't regret it! You never know whose view of us you may change just by helping out and educating those who have never been around an airboat and are misguided into disliking them.

About Ocean Aid 360

Ocean Aid 360 is located at 125 18th Ave South, Salt Creek Marine District, Saint Petersburg, Florida.

In 2018, Ocean Aid 360 expanded its commitment to community-led marine resource conservation, through the design and delivery of The Ghost Trap Rodeo event series. The Ghost Trap Rodeo educates and mobilizes local anglers, recreational and commercial, and other concerned resource user groups; to detect and remove derelict/abandoned crab traps and marine debris while carrying out a by catch species inventory and marine debris mapping exercise to expand state and federal data sets which inform the targeting and allocation of future watershed cleanup resources.

For more information about Ocean Aid 360 visit their website at oceanaid360.org.

Durable and reliable.

Vantage View
CAN BUS compatible

Electronic Foot Pedal
Levitator compatible

LED Navigation Lights
USCG & ABYC certified

Livorsi
CompX Marine Inc. • livorsi.com
35th

The #1 Choice in Performance Boating
847.752.2700 | livorsi.com | sales@livorsi.com

WATER THUNDER PARTS

Now You Can Order Online All The Parts For Your Airboating Needs!

Choose from a massive inventory of quality custom airboat components!

Our tech support comes with 30 years of airboating knowledge and performance engine building expience!

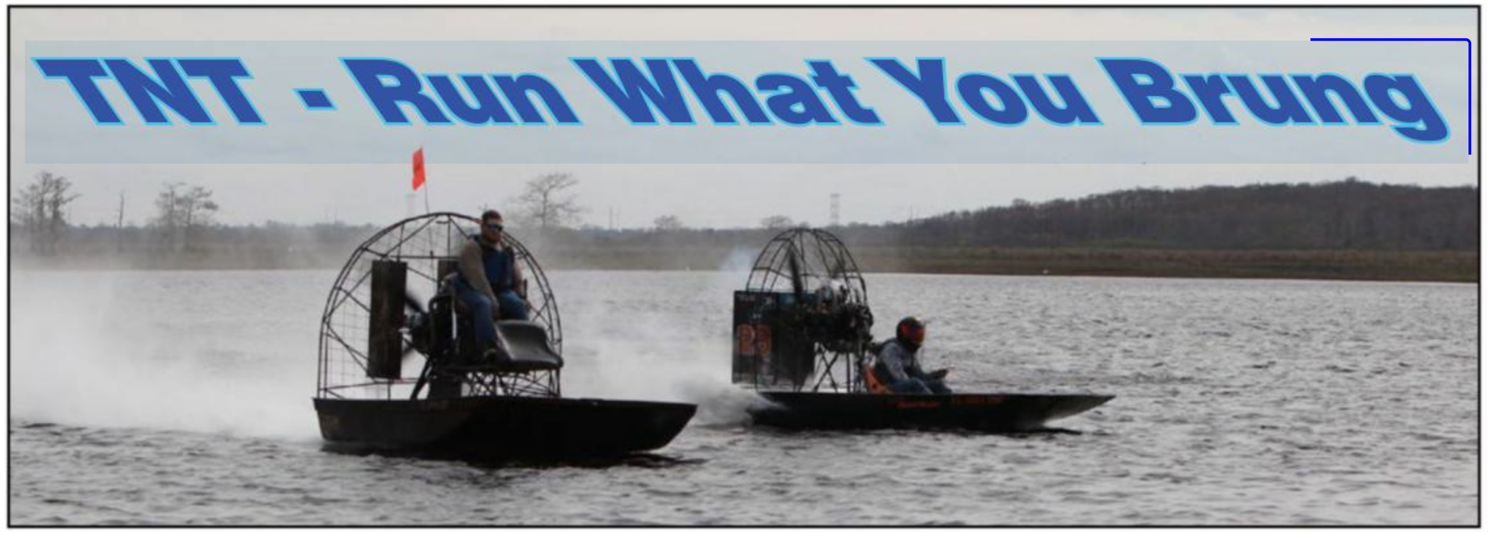
We are certified dealers for Sensenich, Ox Box, JE Pistons, Comp Cams, Cam Motion, BTR and many more!

Most orders will ship out same day!

WaterThunderParts.com

321-508-5316

TNT - Run What You Brung



Colby Stipes on left (inside lane) and CJ on right (outside lane). Stipes with the Nauti Boys Mat racing group took the win for the 4-cylinder class. There is a good video on Facebook where Stipes goes up on his sided.

Photos by Larry Rowe (aka Crazy Larry), Colby Stipes, Negrich

On January 18, 2025, the sun was shining, and the winds were blowing. However, the race boats showed up, so, despite the windy conditions, there was a fun day of airboat racing.

"I want to thank everyone who raced and gathered to watch and have a good time. Special thanks to the top donors who helped to fund the show and supporting the sport of airboat racing." stated Rowe. Supporters included Nauti Boys Mat, Jr Stipes, Chad Waters, Charles Gatlin and Outlaw Airboats.

“Both of our race boats had to sit out for the races, so Mama's boat (Rani Negrich) could make her debut. Our first ride with the boat and it brought home the win for the ride boat class. A big thank you to Marty Mclaughlin and WaterThunder Performance for pulling some super late nights all week to get the boat ready by race day.” shared Brandon Negrich one of the racers.

Above, Brandon Negrich getting ready to race in the ride boat class. Below: Negrich (on right) accepts the win from race organizer Larry Rowe for ride boat class.

Innovative ACCESSORIES
The Industry's Leading Manufacturer of Airboat Accessories

HEADERS WITH BUILT-IN MUFFLERS

PLUS:
- Over 50 different styles of headers
- Over 10 different styles of mufflers
- Lycoming and Continental starter kits
- Foam-filled rudders
- Flex hose, band clamps, flex couplers, V band assemblies, mandrel bends

Same day shipping on most items.

CONTINENTAL STARTER KITS

Okeechobee, FL
863-357-3400

Colby Stipes (above) won 1st in the 4-Cylinder Class.

Middle left: Larry Rowe and Scott Gray split the Unlimited Class pot since the high winds were making it too dangerous to race.

Bottom Left: Bo Hall was the winner of the Proformance Ride Boat Class.

NB NIRBUILT AIRBOATS

Custom Airboats & Repairs
397 Main St., Ashland, NE 68003

When we say NirBuilt, we mean we build it all. From rudders to rakes and everything in between.

402-480-1631 - Cell

nirbuilt@gmail.com
www.nirbuiltairboats.com

East Marsh TNT - Run What You Brung

By Laurie Hauke

Photos by JR Stipes, Kayla Holloway

February 15, 2025, at Summer Camp in East Marsh was another day of fun with another TNT - Run What You Brung. Hosted by Nauti Boys Mat, Outlaw Airboats and Cut Right Outback.

The fun started at 1 PM with runoffs beginning at 2 PM.

Jeff Ward, owner of Cut Right Outback in Vero Beach, Florida, brought some great smoked chicken so no one went hungry.

Nauti Boys gave out some custom cooler tops for the participants.

Following the afternoon of TNT, many stayed to enjoy the Indian River County Airboat Association's rocket launch and bonfire.

The people organizing these TNTs are working to put together more in the coming months. While there are no official classes as in sanctioned racing, they still have some fun things planned for the future.

If you are interested in participating or watching a future TNT, reach out to JR Stipes or Larry Rowe on Facebook .

Courtney Griffin, Casey Day and Kayla Holloway were enjoying the racing with the Nauti Boys Mat team.

Lauderdale Speedometer & Compass
VDO Marine
Faria World Class Instruments
GARMIN
www.AirboatGauge.com
Full Gauge Sets • Ratio Joints • Tach Cables • Garmin GPS
Car engine airboat complete gauge kit. Starting at only $149.39.
Aircraft 3-gauge kit. Starting at only $175.
JAY VERKEY
300 West State Road 84 • Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33315
954-522-4885 • 1-800-951-5123 • Fax 954-522-2133 www.LSpeedo.com

Glenn Fichter
P.O. BOX 545
ALVA FL 33920
PHONE 239-694-5759
FAX 239-694-5214
SOUTHERN
ENTERPRISES
secustomairboats.com
CUSTOM AIRBOATS
FABRICATION • REPAIR • PARTS • ACCESSORIES

Removing Invasive Species in Florida Iguana Hunting

Article and photos by John Mason

I was born in Coral Gables and moved to North Florida, specifically Live Oak, when I was around 8 years old. Growing up, I spent countless hours on the Suwannee River, Santa Fe River, and Ichetucknee Springs. I have always had a deep love for the outdoors. As a teenager, weekend trips to Steinhatchee or Horseshoe Beach for fishing were a regular occurrence.

As I grew older, life took me out West. For 30 years, I worked as a contractor, building a successful business across Wyoming, New Mexico, Nebraska, and Colorado. While I thrived professionally, a part of me missed being in the woods, on the water, fishing, and

BROWN WATER AIRBOATS
352-419-5971
7389 S. Florida Avenue, Floral City, FL 34436
BrownWaterAirboatsllc.com
Sales, Service, Parts, Accessories for Aircraft & Car Motor Airboats
Come visit our showroom
Member Citrus County Airboat Alliance
Follow us on
Dealers for:
We sell:

exploring the natural world. When I turned 55, I realized it was time to reconnect with that passion.

A longtime friend from Florida, Matt, invited me on a python hunting trip, and that's where my new adventure began. Although we did not catch any pythons on those early trips, the experience sparked something in me. Around the same time, we started hearing about the growing problem of iguanas and the damage they were causing in South Florida. To get a firsthand look, we hired a guide for an iguana hunting trip. That experience opened our eyes to the massive environmental harm these creatures were inflicting.

From that moment on, we decided to join the fight against invasive species. On our first iguana hunting trip, we eliminated over 200 iguanas. It was then I realized this was how I wanted to spend my semi-retirement: actively contributing to conservation by hunting and eradicating invasive species in Florida.

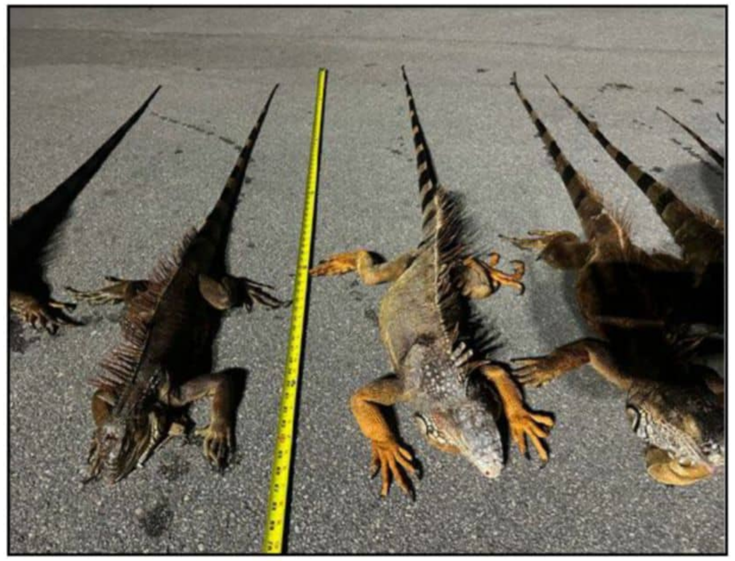
To take things seriously, I had PB Airboats build me a custom airboat, which Tonia wrapped in a striking invasive-species-theme design. Over time, I have logged more than 150 miles of Everglades exploration on that airboat, primarily targeting iguanas in areas like West Palm Beach, Fort Lauderdale, and Fort Myers. So far, I have eradicated over 350 iguanas—and ironically, I am still yet to come across a python. But I am not giving up.

When colder weather rolled in, we paused our efforts temporarily. During this time, I focused on helping my nephew rebuild his home, which was destroyed by Hurricane Helene in Keaton Beach. Now, with warmer weather on the horizon, we are gearing up to hit the field again, ready to go anywhere in Florida to help with the extermination of iguanas, pythons, lionfish, and other invasive species.

One thing that struck me about this work is how persistent the problem is. Even after a successful day in the field, it often feels like there are just as many invasive species the next day. It is disheartening at times, but I know we are making a difference. A single female iguana can carry over 50 eggs, and these nonnative creatures are wreaking havoc on native bird and duck populations, as well as damaging roads and plant life.

While I know this battle is far larger than just me, I am committed to doing my part for the state I love. By sharing my story, I hope to inspire others to join the effort and bring true conservationism back to Florida. Together, we can protect our ecosystems and restore balance to this beautiful state.

352-591-2161



For further information go to:

Iguana Removal Project...This FWC volunteer program in Davie and Boca Raton focuses on targeted removal of black spinytail iguanas and green iguanas, which can impact state-threatened burrowing owls and gopher tortoises. Learn techniques to control iguanas on your property at an Iguana Technical Assistance workshop or give us feedback at a Burmese Python Management Plan workshop.

myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/nonnatives/get-involved/
myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/nonnatives/regulations/
myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/nonnatives/public-workshops/

GATORPROOUTDOORS.COM
772-571-8384
Airboat Flags, Frog Gigs, Headlights, and more!
GATOR PRO
XTREME HUNTING GEAR

Broward County Airboat & Halftrack Conservation Club
Frog Gigging Tournament

Article and photos by Chad Weyker

The Broward County Airboat and Halftrack Conservation Club's Annual Frogging Tournament on Jan. 18, 2025, was another success. Participants met at Alligator Alley Mile Marker 35 by 5:30 PM. We had a total of 25 vessels this year with guys, gals and youth of all ages. The tournament started at 6:30 PM and the weigh-in was from 9 to 10 PM.

It was 20 frogs most weight challenge. The first-place winner had a total frog weight of 9.74 lbs., the second place frogs was 9.23 lbs, and third place frogs weighed 9.06 lbs.

Most of the winnings were donated back to the club. The 3-Frog 50/50 challenge was a payout of $240.

There was a fantastic BBQ provided by the club member Russell Arron Jr.

Big thank you to the 2025 Sponsors: Sawgrass Ford, Grafik Millwrights, Native Chickee Builders, Lauderdale Speedometer, Russ Diesel Inc., Mayer Marine, Weyker's Wiring, and South Florida Masonry, Total Health Center Inc., Stagecoach and Bill Sorola.

OCEAPOLY
BONDABLE
UHWM Airboat Hull Protection
Without Drilling Holes
SPORTMAN & MILITARY TESTED
A DIVISION OF LINKTECH
Available in 1/4" and 3/8" BLACK or GRAY
Call for an installer near you
269-214-6587 www.oceapoly.com

United Sportsmen Airboaters Alliance New Years Day Cookout

Article and photos by David "Straycat" Laviolette

Today's (January 1, 2025) adventure to the annual United Sportsmen Airboaters Alliance proved one thing, the spirit of past USAA president, Jerry Wetherington, is alive and well. Jerry led the USAA for many years and this New Years Day event was always his favorite. It was not just the great food, or the promise of starting a new year of airboating, but the gathering of so many club members who had become his extended family. This cookout for the club members was just a little way for the club to enjoy and give back to the members who support the many functions of the USAA. Many club event fund raising efforts are donated to area community projects including organizations like the Ronald McDonald House for Children, the local fire department and others.

This year there was a nice congregation of high-powered race boats in attendance for a bit of just for bragging rights unsanctioned racing. These guys invest thousands of dollars into their "thunder" boats to enjoy the camaraderie of other "love the speed" airboat racing enthusiast and the cheers of the several hundred onlookers who enjoy the racers as they challenge themselves, their machines, and their fellow racer. Several of the long-time airboating racers were here on this day; such as Phillips, Irwin, White, and Shnitous, just to name a few. The gentlemen who purchased Lou Hawthorne's legendary "Ground Rattle" airboat would have made Mr. Hawthrone proud. It still shakes the ground and still a big fan favorite.

Of course, watching racing and riding around on the airboat can stir up an appetite. And the USAA is known for their great food on New Year's Day. They always have a dedicated and skilled group of volunteers setting things up and cooking up BBQ and sides (including the traditional greens and black-eyed peas).

Mr. Butch Wise is the current president of USAA. It was a pleasure to meet him, and his wife Susan, at this wonderful start to the new year.

I am proud to now being a full-fledged member of the USAA today. I encourage everyone in 2025 to join a local airboat club (or two or three) and become active in club events and rides.

Be Safe, Be Seen On Your Next Night Ride With The New Illuminated Safety Flag

ATVs
Side by Sides
Swamp Buggies
Air Boats

- DURABLE
- FLEXIBLE
- ELECTRIC

sales@glowwhips.com
561-662-1971
GLOWWHIPS
OFF-ROAD ILLUMINATED SAFETY FLAGS
www.glowwhips.com

Indian River County Airboat Association Rocket Launch

Article and photos by Brae Anderson

February 15, was IRCAA rocket launch at Summer Camp in East Marsh off outside of Fellsmere, Florida (Highway 60 West to 512 North just past the Garcia Lake boat ramp on the right side, also known as Blue Cypress Conservation area).

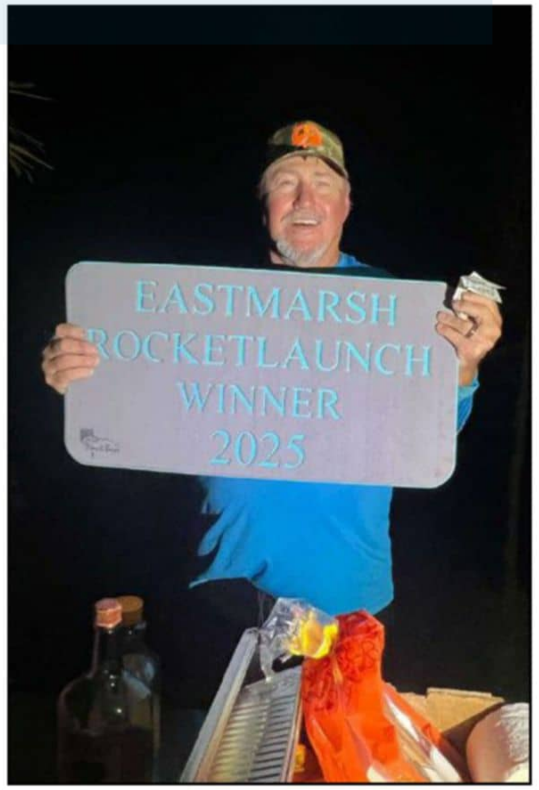
IRCAA held their first rocket launch event in July 2021 and it has been a fun and popular night of airboating ever year since.

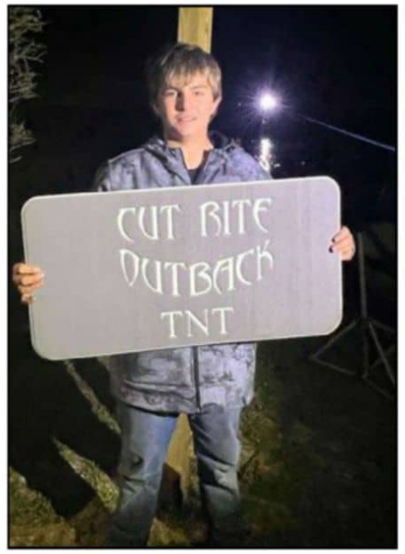
To participate, boats must have night navigation lights and a headlight. A boat heads out into the marsh, while those back at camp prepare their boats to begin the search.

Once the "signal" flare goes up, participants head out into the marsh, hoping to be the first to locate the "lost" airboater. Actually not lost, just kind of an airboat version of hide and seek. Random flares (mortar and bottle rocket fireworks) are sent up to give clues to their location.

Before the search began, there was time to enjoy a club cookout and after, to enjoy time around the bonfire.

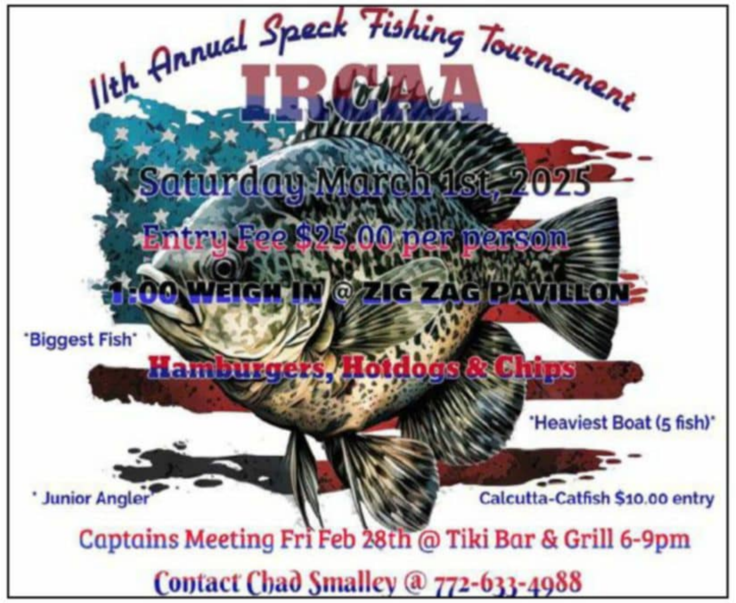
Be sure to follow IRCAA on Facebook for future events, like their March 1 Speck Fishing Tournament and their April 19 Golf Tournament Fund Raising event for their annual youth hunt programs.





Right: Winner David Worthen.

Left: Runner up Jason Sauriol/Mason.


11th Annual Speck Fishing Tournament
IRCAA
Saturday March 1st, 2025
Entry Fee $25.00 per person
1:00 WEIGH IN @ ZIG ZAG PAVILLON
Biggest Fish
Hamburgers, Hotdogs & Chips
Heaviest Boat (5 fish)
* Junior Angler*
Calcutta-Catfish $10.00 entry
Captains Meeting Fri Feb 28th @ Tiki Bar & Grill 6-9pm
Contact Chad Smalley @ 772-633-4988

MAKO HOSE & RUBBER CO.
Call: 561-795-6200
Order Online
www.MakoHose.com
Email: Todd@makohose.com

Custom Airboat Cables
Steering 8" or 6" Travel
Throttle Pedal Throttle
Ball Joints Heim Joints
(Builders and Distributors: Contact Todd for Special Pricing!)

Buggy Cables
Steering Valves
Hoses

8331 McAllister Way, West Palm Beach, FL. 33411

Florida Sportsmen Conservation Association 27th Annual Outdoor Youth Day

Article by Laurie Hauke   Photos by Sandra Effertz Photography

February 1, 2025, was FSCA's 27th Annual Outdoor Youth Day and it was incredible thanks to the dedication of more than 200 volunteers and generous sponsors. This event is held each year at the Everglades Youth Conservation Camp at 12100 Seminole Pratt Whitney Road, West Palm Beach, Florida.

This year there were 1,175 youths and their families attending and they got to experience and explore the great outdoors. There were airboat rides, swamp buggy rides, archery stations, shooting stations, petting zoo and so much more.

"I participate in a nonprofit organization focused on preserving and defending your boating rights in Florida. The name of our organization, SOBR-FL, is an acronym for Save Our Boating Rights - Florida. Throughout this two-year commitment, I have established lasting relationships with exceptional individuals. During the Outdoor Youth Day event in West Palm Beach (Florida) hosted by FSCA, I engaged in a productive conversation with a colleague on the west coast regarding our shared conservation objectives. We reunited with numerous people who are dedicated to conservation who we have met during this journey. My son, Jaiden, had his inaugural swamp buggy ride, while I had not experienced this in over two decades. The day also included his first experience shooting a shotgun, an airboat excursion, cane pole fishing, interacting with an alligator, and pony rides." shared Wake with Wake.

Mark your calendars for next year's Outdoor Youth Day on February 7, 2026.

AIRCRAFT
GENERAL SUPPLY
Aircraft Parts & Pilot Shop

Continental • Lycoming
Mags • Carbs • Engine Parts
Bearings • Gaskets • Rings and more...

904-645-0618
1840 St. Johns Bluff Rd. S., Jacksonville, FL 32246
www.AircraftGeneralSupply.com

FLORIDA SPORTSMEN'S CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

COOPERTOWN
AIR BOAT RIDES
AND RESTAURANT

Frog Legs
Gator Tail

IN THE HEART OF
THE EVERGLADES
Since 1945

11 Miles West of Florida Turnpike on U.S. 41
The Best Guides and where the world's most amazing air boat ride originated.
E-Mail: coairboat@aol.com

Jesse Kennon
305-226-6048

P.O. Box 940176
Miami, FL 33194

Jesse Kennon
Mayor

Seminole County Airboat Club Chili Cook Off

Article and photos by Lana Richelle Davis

Chili cook offs have a rich history, dating back to the early 20th century. They originated in the southwestern United States, particularly in Texas, where chili is deeply rooted in the culture and has been a beloved dish for many years.

For SCAC this annual event is in February and is a great way to get together, usually before the warmer Florida weather sets in for prime airboat riding. This year, the event was held on February 15 at Loughman Lakeside Restaurant and Bar at 1955 Hatbill Road in Mims, Florida. For those wanting to make a weekend out of it, there was a group camp-out from the 14-16th. Chili judging started at 2 PM on Saturday.

The seven chili cooks who entered the cook off each prepared their favorite chili and it was a varied culinary delight of flavors for those who got to enjoy the tasting.

First place was won by Luke Fetterhoff, second to Sid Miller and third to Sean Hendrix. There were cash prizes and gift certificate donated by Loughmans for the winners.

Along with the chili cooks, there was a great turnout for the tasting. Frank Constantino showed up with the Swamp Addiction truck for anyone who needed to add some cool apparel to their wardrobe.

BRIAN KRUG 863.581.9710
qsairboats@aol.com
Quick Slick
BOTTOMS

Hunting Snipe and Ducks

Article by Emily Rollins **Photos by John Rollins**

This winter I was fortunate enough to go on two amazing hunting experiences.

The journey began on Christmas morning, 2023, when my dad, John Rollins, gifted me a Mossberg Silver Reserve 20ga shotgun. I was so excited I could not wait to join my dad and his friend's Facebook group, Wednesday Night, Shooters at Markham Park in Sunrise, Florida.

To be honest, I did not do so well at first. After having taken some youth beginner's classes offered on Monday nights, the instructors diagnosed my problem: I was right-handed but left-eye dominant. After switching, and now shooting left-handed, I started to get the hang of it. My mom Lauren, dad and I continued shooting at Markham Park for the next year and a half. Once I felt confident and comfortable, my dad asked some friends to take us hunting.

First, we got invited to join his friends Russ "Diesel" Aaron, his daughter Cheyenne Aaron, and her friend Lily Altman on a snipe hunt. I did not know what a snipe was, but I was so excited to go. I even woke up before my 6:30 AM alarm.

We packed our guns in the truck and headed to Mile Marker 35 boat ramp. When we arrived, everyone loaded up onto Russ's 14' EIC 632 powered Hamant airboat. On the way out, we made a quick stop at Tower Camp. Then, we traveled through some alligator-infested trails to an open area where we stopped and explained about the area and how we would hunt.

My dad spotted the first snipe. It flew like it was confused, like a bat. I hit it on the second shot and the feeling when it dropped

I honored tradition and ate the snipe heart.

AIRBOAT STUFF LLC
CUSTOM AIRBOAT TRAILERS
LS ENGINE PARTS, AIRBOAT PARTS & MORE
14030 CITRUS WAY, BROOKSVILLE, FL
PHONE: 352-428-9626
E-MAIL: AIRBOATSTUFF@GMAIL.COM

was remarkable. We could see exactly where the bird fell, around 40 feet away from us. Bringing the boat closer, we jumped off the boat in our mud boots to find it. Unfortunately, it was nowhere to be found. Dad explained they were naturally camouflaged in the grass, but I am 99 percent sure we parked on top of it.

Throughout the morning, Cheyenne, Lily, and I were able to shoot and retrieve five snipes. Back at the boat ramp, Russ taught us how to clean the birds and informed us of a hunting ritual in which we had to eat the heart of our first kill. Dad was skeptical at first, but I was all in "low-key." It tasted like ahi tuna with the texture of a peanut M&M. After we cleaned the snipes, we headed home.

We called my mom who was out of town and told her all about it. She just was not happy about me eating the heart. Coincidentally, she happened to be eating peanut M&M's.

When we got home, I cooked our snipe nuggets with garlic, oil, salt and pepper and they were amazing. I really hope to go again next season on a full track. It is said it is easier to hunt in the drier areas that are not accessible using airboats.

For our second hunt, the following weekend, my dad's friend Lige Lawrence and his son Leslie informed us about the Florida Wildlife Commission youth duck hunt they were going on and invited us to go along. Once again, I was stoked.

The night before the hunt, I could barely sleep. My 2:50 AM alarm rang and minutes later my dad and I were out the door. When we got to the Lox Road boat ramp, we met our captain, Joe Giafaglione and his dog, a Labrador named Riot, and headed to a spot in his 14'6" Lycoming 0540 powered Triple W Airboat.

We threw our decoys, hid the airboat, and made our way into the sawgrass. Not long into the hunt, the birds began to show up. Shooting from the mud was much more difficult. I thought my dad had given us blanks (something he would do). But eventually, Leslie shot a double header mottled/teal and later I shot a mottled one. I even had an ongoing battle with a coot I really think was teasing me.

We saw tons of birds out there. The pink Rosetta Spoonbill I really wanted to put on my wall flew by and I was hoping to go by the adage, if it flies it dies method, but my dad said the FWC would frown upon that.

After a long morning, we headed back to the boat ramp, loaded up and made our way to where Alex Pomareda from Quack Skins Camo was putting on an airboat and buggy show to bring attention to the youth hunt. It was an exciting time, but we had to get home to grill up some duck burgers. They were great, but, to me, the snipe tasted better.

I am so grateful for my mom and dad and all the other amazing people involved who provided me with this opportunity as well as *Airboating Magazine* for the chance to tell everyone about it. I have to say, I am a lucky girl.

We are looking forward to more snipe and duck hunts on our 13' Pop Dees airboat powered by a Caddy 500 engine. I also really want to try hunting turkey and deer at some point.

I have been collecting spent shell casings to use for shotgun shell art. I am hoping to eventually sell them to pay for some future hunts and, who knows, maybe my own airboat someday.

Emily Rollins is a freshman at Western High School in Davie, Florida.

GATORBACK™

UHMW Airboat Bottom Sheets

Everglades and frozen tundra tested, our UHMW sheets are like body armor for aluminum and fiberglass hulls.

Colors	Sizes	Thickness
Gray Black Black/Green GXP	80" x 160" 80" x 240"	1/4" 5/16" 3/8"

Duro-Glide® POLYMER SHEETS

airboatsheets.com | (866) 652-2557

Mother Nature Tested.
Gator Tough!

Lake Okeechobee Airboat Association January Had Successful Youth Hunts

Article by Laurie Hauke
Photos by Velva Mellette and Jeneane Rhuda

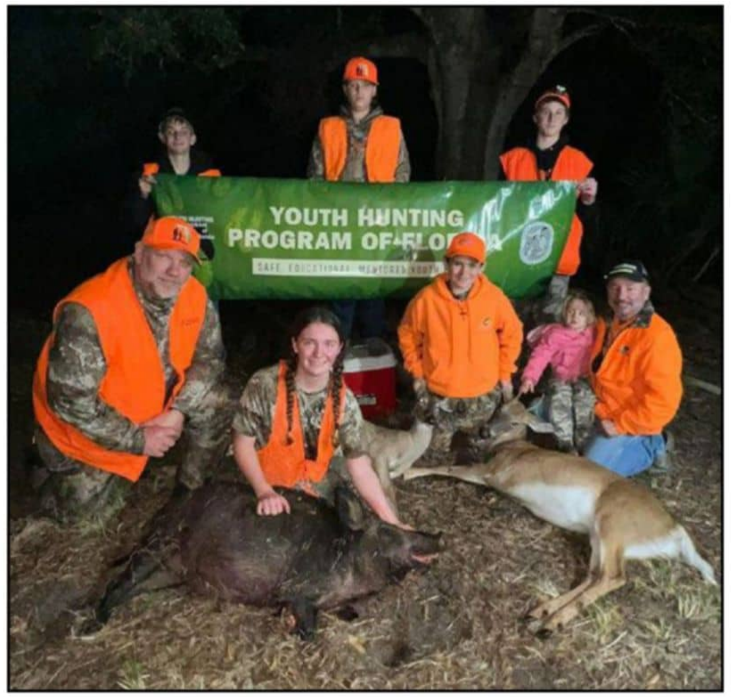
LOAA's first youth hunt of 2025 was at Trail Ridge east of Gainesville, Florida. This was also our last hunt at this location. We've enjoyed this property tremendously and have made a lot of great memories with youths who harvested a lot of game here. LOAA is thankful for our time at this property and look forward to more opportunities thanks to the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

This was a great last hunt at this location, and we had three deer harvested and one hog. The young hunters and their huntmasters and other volunteers were all excited for these children.

Another successful youth hunt was on January 19, 2025, at Lamb Island. Huge thank you to all the parents who brought their children out. Two youths harvested this weekend, one of them their very first buck.

None if this would be possible without Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission and SFWMD and all of our volunteers. Thank you so much for all of your time and dedication to our youth.

This program is something we are thankful to be a part of and encourage others to get their youths registered on our website at www.loaa1988.com.


YOUTH HUNTING PROGRAM OF FLO

YOUTH HUNTING PROGRAM OF FLORI

Custom Airboat Seating
If it doesn't say ButtRaxx, it's not!

Making life more comfortable one seat at a time...

Visit us on Facebook 321-208-7081 - www.ButtRaxx.com

PLASH
1-855-661-1002
www.PLASHLIGHTS.com

LIGHT BARS
HANDHELD
SEARCH
EMERGENCY
ACCENT

IN STOCK
SHIP SAME DAY

FULL LIFETIME WARRANTY

EXCLUSIVE MANUFACTURER OF CARBON FIBER LIGHTING

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Escape to the Country on this 10-Acre Homestead in Heart of Deer Hunting

Beautiful 3 bedroom/2 bath house sits well off the road through a deeded easement of pines. Wildlife, privacy, you got it. 2600 sqft house has open floor plan, high ceilings. Great windows provide view of wildlife outside. Hardwood floors. Large kitchen with lots of cabinets, nice-sized laundry room. Built in dressers in master bedroom with 2 large walk-in closets. Master bath with walk-in shower. Propane fireplace in family room. Large dining area comes with farm-style 8 chair dining table. 2nd bedroom is wood paneled. 3rd very large bedroom can be office/game room. Big wrap around porch is partially screened and has ceiling fans. 2 car carport attached to house.

Plenty of deer and turkey for hunting right in your backyard (has hunting tower). 2 stall horse stable with middle hay area. Partially fenced. The Pole barn/garage fits 4 large vehicles and more plus a 12x24 shed. A chicken run, small animal area (quail or rabbits) in back and a rectangle koi pond you can see from the deck at the house. Has 2 small ponds you can stock with fish or use for ducks. One is spring fed. Plus some fruit trees and plenty of room for a garden and RV parking.

Midway, Alabama - $354,000

Contact R&F Properties @334-245-0763
or email contact@rfpropertiesforsale.com.
See more photos at rfpropertiesforsale.com/listing/550687/1661-antioch-church-road-midway-al-36053

www.zillow.com/homedetails/1661-Antioch-Church-Rd-Midway-AL-36053/114493541_zpid/

SUBSCRIBE TODAY

1 Year - Print Version - $34

AIRBOATING MAGAZINE - SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

1 Year - 6 Issues for only $34 (**Florida residents add $2.38 sales tax**). Canada $65. Int'l. call for rates. 352-255-4776
***(Include $3.15 shipping & handling fee to receive your 1st magazine immediately** – OR for no extra charge, orders will be mailed with the release of the NEXT issue.)* Make check payable to: Airboating Magazine LLC, 917 County Road 102, Abbeville, AL 36310
Allow 3 to 6 weeks for delivery.

Name ____________________
Address ____________________
City ____________________ State ____________ Zip code ____________
E-mail ____________________ Phone ____________
Credit Card Type ____________ Security Code ________ Check Enclosed ______ Check #__________
Card # ____________________ Exp Date ______/______
Signature: ____________________ Issue start month ____________

Swamp Sweetie

Swamp Sweetie

Call 352-255-4776 to order.

Quantities limited. Price does not include tax and shipping.

On Sale Through May 1, 2025

Soft Tank Tops. Side seamed with a contoured body for a feminine fit. Curved hem.
Front is the Swamp Sweetie image with airboat. Back has no image. Colors: 50/50 poly/cotton (Neon Blue) 90/10 cotton/poly (Athletic Heather) - Sizes XS to 2XL (XS Neon Blue sold out). $10 ON SALE- $2 extra for 2XL

RIDIN' AND SLIDIN'

Ladies' ultra comfortable long-sleeve shirt with moisture-wicking performance. Shirt has a scoop neck and curved drop-tail bottom hem. ABM logo on front and Ridin' and Slidin' image on the back. Navy blue sleeves with light gray shirt body. (Size mediums have a lighter blue sleeve). Sizes XS to 3XL. $12 ON SALE - $2 extra for 2-3XL

LOUISIANA'S OLDEST & LARGEST FISHING & HUNTING SHOW

Presents

Louisiana SPORTSMAN SHOW & festival LAPLACE

45TH ANNUAL

MARCH 28-30, 2025

St. John the Baptist Community Center
& Thomas F. Daley Memorial Park, Hwy 51

LAPLACE, LA

- **FREE ADMISSION ON FRIDAY** to first responders and those in the armed forces.
- **DISCOUNTED TICKET PRICES** of just $10 for adults, with those 10 and under getting in free.
- **FOOD COURT** that will feature delicacies from restaurants around the area.
- **INDOOR/OUTDOOR** exhibits
- Kids activity zone that will include **INFLATABLES**, **ALLIGATORS**, **SNAKES** and more.
- **FREE PARKING**

Sponsored by

For exhibitor information, contact **showservices@louisianasportsmanshow.com**

KRVSA FREEDOM RIDE 2025

MARCH 1, 2025

10AM - 3PM

Coleman Landing at Shady Oaks – Just off Hwy 60, East of Lake Wales
1450 Shady Oak Drive • Lake Wales, FL 33898

EVENT ✪ RAFFLES ✪ FOOD ✪ MERCHANDISE

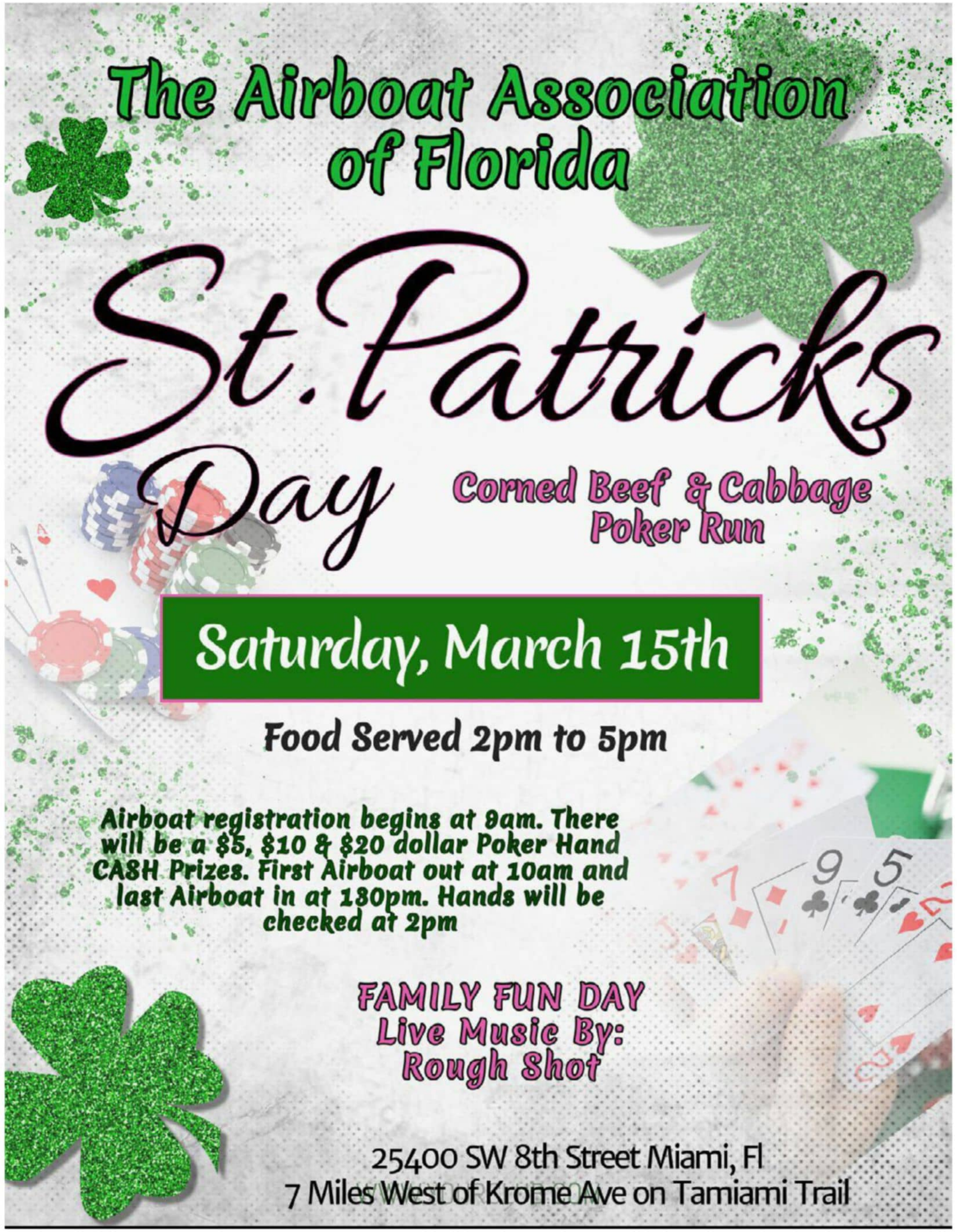
THIS IS THE LARGEST GATHERING OF AIRBOATERS IN THE WORLD!
Please come support the Kissimmee River Valley Sportsman Association. We work hard to improve recreation on the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes and open more lands for public recreation.

Renew membership between now and the Freedom Ride and be entered to win –

GLOCK PISTOL

**MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN & MUST BE ABLE TO PASS BACKGROUND CHECK*

Email Info@krvsa.com for more information, membership renewals or to purchase a partner card.



The Airboat Association of Florida

St. Patricks Day

Corned Beef & Cabbage Poker Run

Saturday, March 15th

Food Served 2pm to 5pm

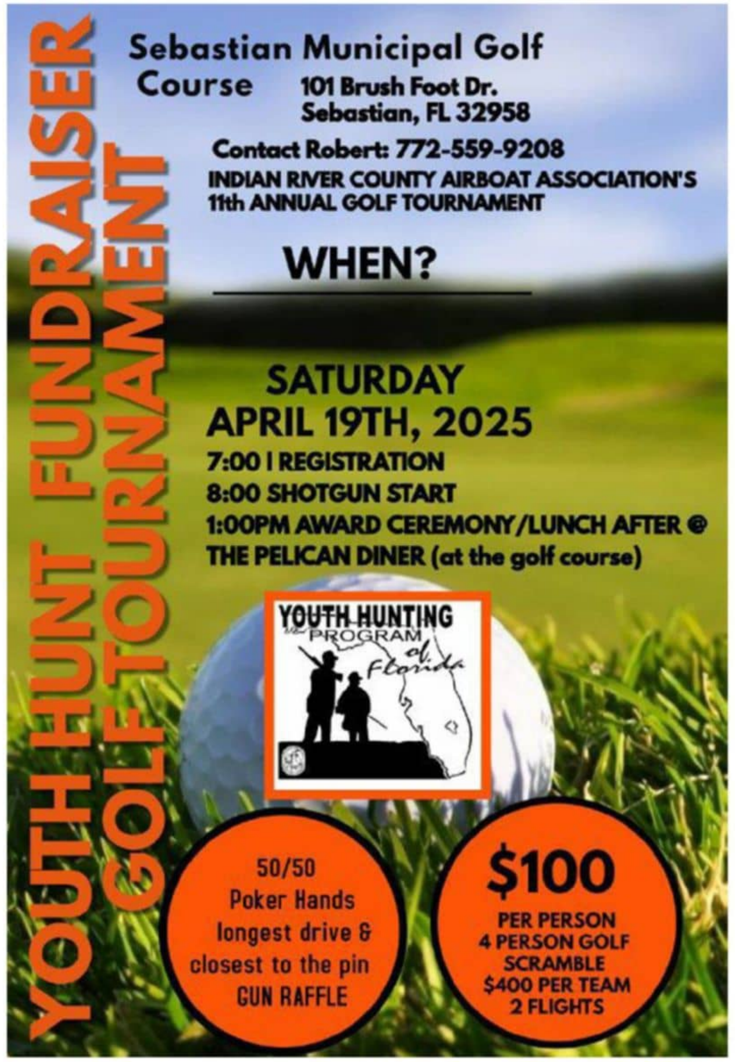
Airboat registration begins at 9am. There will be a $5, $10 & $20 dollar Poker Hand CASH Prizes. First Airboat out at 10am and last Airboat in at 130pm. Hands will be checked at 2pm

FAMILY FUN DAY
Live Music By:
Rough Shot

25400 SW 8th Street Miami, Fl
7 Miles West of Krome Ave on Tamiami Trail

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 15 Airboat Association of Florida annual St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef & Cabbage Poker Run at club grounds on Tamiami Trail, Miami. 10 to 1:30 run with food and music after run. (See flyer).
March 22: Seminole County Airboat Club Poker Run at Jolly Gator in Geneva, Florida. Sign up 9 and poker run starts 10 with food, prizes and raffles at end of run at Jolly Gator.
March 22: Torry Island Airboat Show and BBQ Competition in Belle Glade, FL. (See flyer)
March 28-29: Marsh Madness Weekend in Texas with a pre party Friday afternoon at Reagan Sprinkles Compound on the north end of Kings Pass that's just north of Danny's Place 5 PM. Food with pass the hat for donations. Then off for a little night ride. Saturday 10 AM at Danny's Place we will leave for the ride 11 AM. Make sure you have enough fuel for a 40-mile loop. Around 4 PM back at Danny's for skeet, gumbo and live music. Marsh Mafia hats for sale and have a woman's hat option this year. Info: facebook.com/events/s/fourth-annual-marsh-madness-by/1813648276041328/
April 5: Airboaters for Autism Light it up Blue at Camp Make on Lake Kissimmee, FL. (See flyer)
April 19: Citrus County Airboaters Alliance Rodeo, Lake Hernando swimming hole. Slalom/keyhole style. Timed event, three classes: Car, 4- & 6-cylinder AV.



YOUTH HUNT FUNDRAISER GOLF TOURNAMENT

Sebastian Municipal Golf Course
101 Brush Foot Dr.
Sebastian, FL 32958

Contact Robert: 772-559-9208
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY AIRBOAT ASSOCIATION'S 11th ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

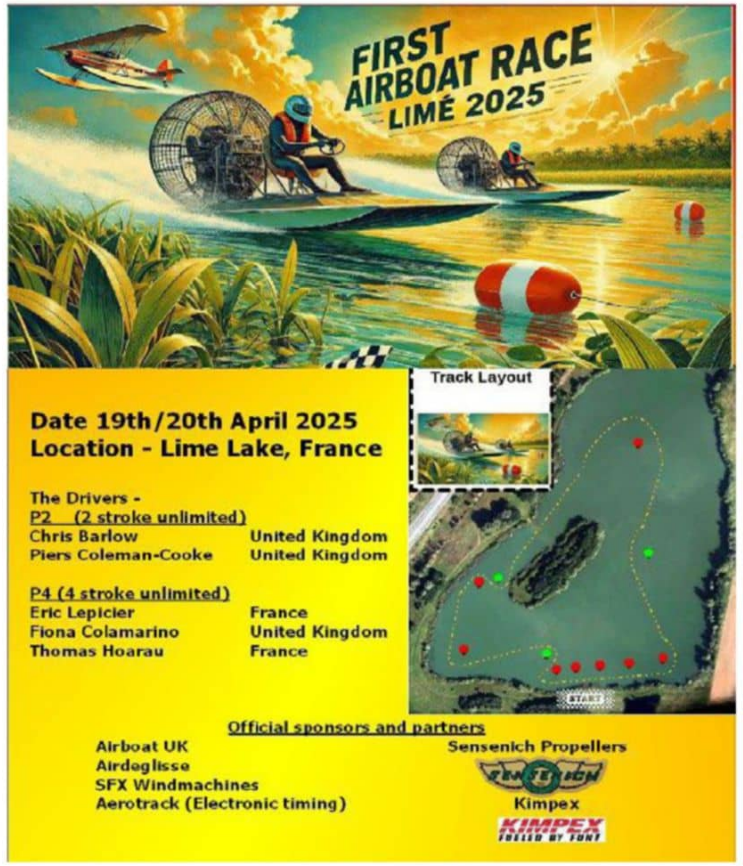
WHEN?

SATURDAY
APRIL 19TH, 2025
7:00 I REGISTRATION
8:00 SHOTGUN START
1:00PM AWARD CEREMONY/LUNCH AFTER @ THE PELICAN DINER (at the golf course)

YOUTH HUNTING PROGRAM of Florida

50/50
Poker Hands
longest drive &
closest to the pin
GUN RAFFLE

$100
PER PERSON
4 PERSON GOLF SCRAMBLE
$400 PER TEAM
2 FLIGHTS



FIRST AIRBOAT RACE LIMÉ 2025

Date 19th/20th April 2025
Location - Lime Lake, France

The Drivers -
P2 (2 stroke unlimited)
Chris Barlow United Kingdom
Piers Coleman-Cooke United Kingdom

P4 (4 stroke unlimited)
Eric Lepicier France
Fiona Colamarino United Kingdom
Thomas Hoarau France

Track Layout
START

Official sponsors and partners
Airboat UK
Airdeglisse
SFX Windmachines
Aerotrack (Electronic timing)
Sensenich Propellers
Kimpex

May TBD: Poker Run hosted by Nauti Boys Mat, Outlaw Airboats and Cut Right. Watch Facebook for future announcements. .
May 17: Citrus County Airboaters Alliance Poker Run Lake Hernando swimming hole.
May 23-26: 25th Annual Falls on the Brazos (Texas) Brazos River Airboaters (BRAB) Memorial Day Run. Ride on Saturday, May 24. A ramp was put in just south of the Falls two years ago. We are renting the entire park for event so camping will be available and everyone that camps would just pitch in for the rental. There are tent and RV spots at first come first service. Info: (254)205-7922 or email tlblewis1982@gmail.com.
June 7: Red River Airboat Association Summer Ride Hosted by Jeff and Tricia Tigert at 10220 West FM 1753 Savoy, Texas.
July 11-13: Prison Camp (Porter, Oklahoma) Summer Ride. Organized by Chris Thomas. Main ride is the 12th You can camp at the ramp or grab a nearby hotel. Emily Hollingshed and band will be playing Saturday night.
July 19: Geiger Road 2025 Fun Run event by Brian Sutfin and Michigan Airboaters at 10981 Geiger Rd, Sebewaing, Michigan starting at 9 AM.
October 4: Citrus County Airboaters Alliance club ride on Lake Kissimmee starting at Camp Mack.

For profit event flyer space is available for moderate fee. Send flyer to info@airboatingmagazine.com.
Call 352-255-4776 to promote your event.

2025 BUD CUP FINALS!

SUNDAY, MARCH 2ND

Family Fun at The Florida Sports Park!

The World Famous...

SWAMP BUGGY RACES!™

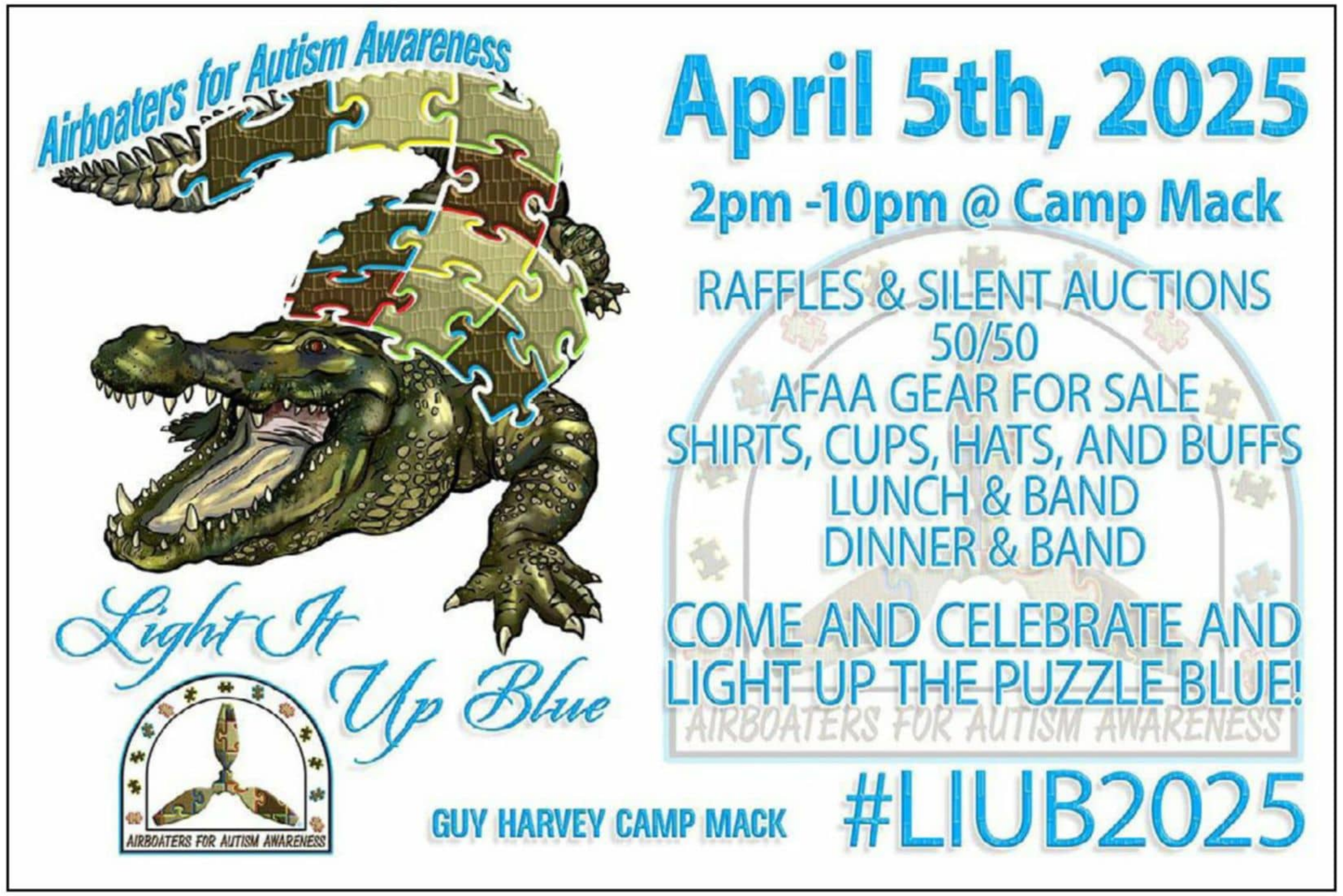
SCAN ME

Proudly Racing in Naples Since 1949

239-774-2701 WWW.SWAMPBUGGY.COM

8520 RATTLESNAKE HAMMOK RD NAPLES, FL 34114

(EXIT 101 OFF I-75, 3.5 MILES SOUTH ON COLLIER BLVD.)



Airboaters for Autism Awareness

April 5th, 2025

2pm -10pm @ Camp Mack

RAFFLES & SILENT AUCTIONS
50/50
AFAA GEAR FOR SALE
SHIRTS, CUPS, HATS, AND BUFFS
LUNCH & BAND
DINNER & BAND

COME AND CELEBRATE AND LIGHT UP THE PUZZLE BLUE!

AIRBOATERS FOR AUTISM AWARENESS

Light It Up Blue

GUY HARVEY CAMP MACK

#LIUB2025

2025 Cajun 8 Limited

SAVE THE DATE!

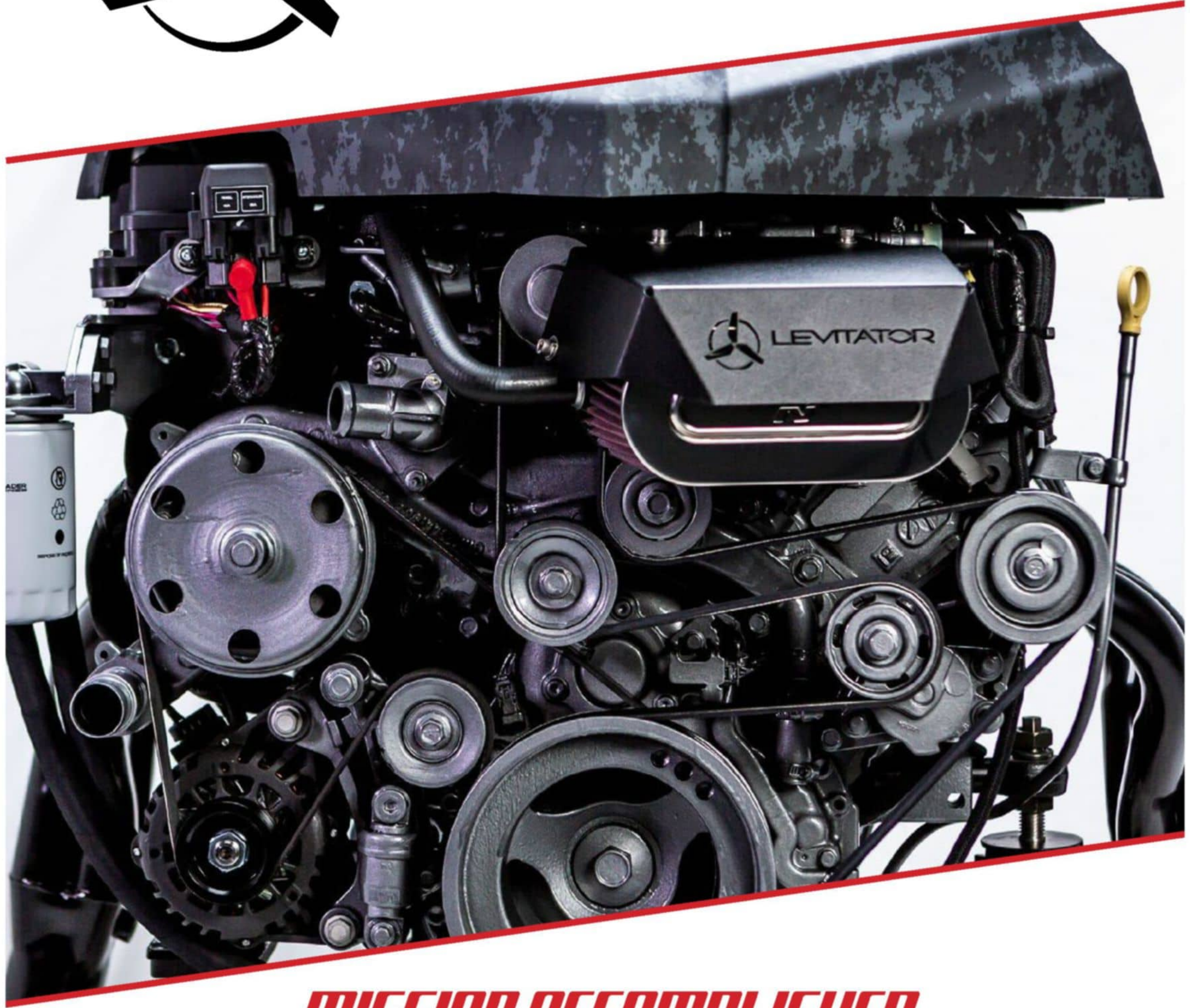
AUGUST 2, 2025

ANGEL MOUNDS
STATE HISTORIC PARK
IN EVANSVILLE, IN

11TH ANNUAL
CAJUN 8
BOWFISHING TOURNAMENT

LEVITATOR

PERFORMANCE AIRBOAT ENGINES



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

- ✓ Superior Design
- ✓ Superior Validation
- ✓ Superior Fuel Delivery (Fuel Control Cell)
- ✓ 100% EPA Emission Certified
- ✓ 3 Year, 200 Hour Factory Warranty
- ✓ Engine Protection (5 stage paint process and cowling)
- ✓ GM Marine Engine Technology
- ✓ High Amperage Alternator
- ✓ Plug and Play Electronics
- ✓ Custom Airboat Calibration
- ✓ Active Response Throttle Control
- ✓ Remote Mount Oil Filter
- ✓ Advanced Engine Diagnostics

(800) 531-3005 www.levitatorengines.com levitator@pleasurecraft.com

---

AMERICAN AIRBOAT CORP.

HOME OF THE AIRRANGER

409-883-7725 OR 1-800-241-6390

Made Tough for Tough Jobs

American Airboats is the leading manufacturer of airboats worldwide. If you need an airboat that focuses on performance, durability, and reliability... then American Airboats is what you need.

OFTEN IMITATED, NEVER DUPLICATED.

Warranties include:

• Lifetime warranty on hull • 15-year warranty on metalwork • 3-year warranty on polymer • 3-year warranty on engine • 1 year warranty on trailer

I-10, Orange, TX 77632

www.americanairboats.com - Email: Sales@AmericanAirboats.com

WHIRLWIND PROPELLERS

3-YEAR
WARRANTY

CARBON MAX
PERFORMANCE

CARBON MAX™ | RAZOR X™ | EXCALIBUR™

- ELECTRO-FORMED NICKEL LEADING EDGE
- ULTRA DENSE CARBON FOR UV PROTECTION
- EXCLUSIVE QUICKCHANGE™ HUBS
- LYCOMING, CONTI AND AUTO OPTIONS
- 66-72" BLADE DIAMETERS
- 2-5 BLADE OPTIONS

IN STOCK AND READY TO SHIP

619.562.3725

AMERICAN MADE AIRBOAT PRODUCTS
AIRBOAT ADJUSTABLE PROPELLERS

WHIRLWINDPROPELLERS.COM